



THE Rio Rotarian



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

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

-Dr. Ted Schulz

Welcome

The Rotary Trio (J. Mac, Gene and Gary) join in forgettable harmony to lead us in "Barbara Ann."

Our Guests

Cub welcomes award-winning Chris Harding from Abel's; Hector greets his kids, Alyssa & Gabe, who had to get out of bed to be here, this morning.

Birthdays

Edwin Kingen, Jim Lira, Dick, & Gil (Aug 1) all celebrate, as they pay. Jim uses Lira's Bucks, J. Mac labels Jim Lira a trendsetter, and Gary helpfully clarifies that he's not a transgender. Groans are heard.

Recognitions

Danny spends weekend at Tahoe, does 7 more dives; he's now at top of heap for recreational divers—he's going for master diver rating. He says the water's cold at Tahoe, evoking discussion among some members regarding "shrinkage." Danny pays \$50 and changes the subject.

Jim Lira's surprise party

Jim enjoys golf and barbecue at friend's house in Carmichael, rubbing elbows with fellow big wigs, noting that his friends were all "old." Jack says, "When you say 'old,' why are you looking at me?" Abashed, Jim gives \$50 to General and Dictionary Funds.

Get ready...the D. G. is coming!

Danny announces that next Thursday our board members will be dining with District Governor Gary Vilhauer. Gary will address our club at breakfast, Friday.

Hog August Bites, Saturday, August 19

Dennis Elliott is setting up event to include barbecue ribs & chili, live music, car show & crafts, but J. Mac says Downhill Races are scratched, as street repairs will not be finished in time. Dennis is looking for classic cars and chili cookers. There will be a motorcycle simulator ride. Rotary will receive all revenues from bar. More volunteers are needed.



Sharks thank sponsors with banners displayed on fence surrounding pool.

This could be a signature event for our town. Funds will be used to supply RVHS with 3 vans to transport kids and equipment for athletic and educational events. A busy volunteer for RioVision, Dennis requests help with community garden and bocce ball courts at White School. *Thank you, Dennis!*

Jim Lira—This is your Life!

Today, Jim presents an "I" program depicting an active life of discipline, dedication and generosity. He was raised by an immigrant dad whose influence was compulsive and unyielding. The family owned and operated a large dairy farm in Rio Vista, feeding, caring for and milking the cows, as well as processing, selling and delivering the milk. Starting when they were 11 years old, Jim and his brothers worked from 2:00 a. m. to 11:00 p. m. every day.

Jim related a story from his youth in which he and his brothers dug a tunnel under 100 tons of hay in a pole barn. It was dark inside, so they used a lantern to see. However, one day while the boys were at school,

Jack's 70th class reunion

Jack called a "nice young lady" at the alumni association of his alma mater. But, she came up empty when he asked if they were planning a reunion for his class of 1947. Happily, he found a few fraternity brothers who were still around to party with.

Gil's Sitka fishing derby

On his tenth annual Alaska trek with his sons and nephews, Gil's boys bag 65 lbs. each of filets, mostly salmon with some halibut. Bursting with pride, Gil parts with \$50.

Where art thou, oh, gavel?

Possibly fudging a little on the 4-Way Test, Molly claims she did not see, and most certainly did not have the gavel at 3-Mile Brewery, recently, when Hector, Stephanie, Alyssa, Edwin and Vera came to visit. They brought back fast food for Gabe instead of sushi. *Tsk, tsk.*

Molly's AFS update

Last year's students returned home; next year we host Cecile from Italy; Nicky visits Molly; Molly gives \$25.

That elusive marble

Fast Eddie has the right ticket, but picks the wrong marble.



Newsletter Staff

Co-Editors: Edwin Okamura, Dick Burkhart

Photographer: Bob Bard

Student Reporter: TBD



Jim Lira discusses growing up in Rio Vista.

the lantern caught the hay on fire, and the entire stack went up in smoke. Fortunately for the boys, their dad never found out.

Jim waxed nostalgic about the Rio Vista of his youth; homecoming, Indian artifacts, Schmidt's theater, the old bowling alley, and gas well royalties that made the city rich...for a while. He laments that the city receives no royalties from the wind farm west of town.

Jim says he got into one fight in high school and relays the gory details. Dennis asks if he won the fight, but Jim modestly addresses the question by explaining that he pinned the aggressor against the wall by the throat, didn't let go, and the fight was over.

Jim's dad so ingrained the work ethic in his sons, that Jim now wishes he had taken more time off to spend with his own kids when they were young. He says that Ernie Triguero provided an amazing estate for his kids, and that, to this day, that estate still owns the property where Lira's stands. Yvonne Carvalho helped him get his first job working for Podesto at Don Quick's market, a store which he now owns, thanks to a substantial loan from Ed Dutra, Jr.

He married Shirley in 1969, and together they raised two kids, Mike and Christine. He talked about Don Quick's being a union store, but he'd stay and work long after his shift was over, and leave out the back door when given a heads up that a union rep. was coming. He'd work bailing hay from 3-8 a.m. then go to work at the store. He spoke of the generosity of people who helped him as a boy, including Peter Cook, a farmer who gave him a ride in his luxurious car while Jim had work clothes on, and Charlie Scholting's mom, Eleanor, who gave him new clothes. Jim has lived in the same house since he got married, and his 2003 car has 300K miles on it.

Jim still lives a full and active life; his story is quite compelling.

COMING ATTRACTIONS		
DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
July 21	District Governor	Dan Schindler
July 28	TBD	Derek Abel
August 4	Vince Jacala "Hwy 12 Project"	Bob Bard
August 11	Steven Lee "Oroville Dam Repairs"	Jon Blegen
August 18	TBD	Pat Byron