

# ROTAJET

<http://rotary.abcre.org/>

Next week's program:  
John Andrews—Downtown Mgr.

**SELL  
TICKETS!!!**

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Kathi Salinas— Editor

**Jim Scribner** led the club in the invocation, and **Hal Austin**, led us in the flag salute. **Phil Bremenstuh** from the Riverside Rotary Club brought a Rotary Exchange student, **Humberto Altamirano** from Nicaragua. **Humberto** shared recipes from his home for a mere \$5 to help fund some of the costs of being an exchange student. (I spoke with Humberto after the meeting and we talked about his experience at RYLA. He thought it was a fantastic opportunity to learn about our culture).

Today was “bring a buddy” to Rotary so we had Guests! I think we had about eight people who took us up on a free lunch.

President Bill routinely skipped the welcome song. I think I heard him mutter something about costing a lot to be president...

**Eddy Longshore** received his **Paul Harris** Fellowship today. (way to go **Eddy!**).

**Dave Foster** made an announcement to gather volunteers for the West Coast Thunder Ride to be held May 31<sup>st</sup>. The ride starts at the Auto Center and makes it's way to Arlington National Cemetery for Memorial Day celebrations. **Eddy Longshore** said the event has gradually been growing and they expect about 3000 Harleys and riders to participate. (sounds like a fun day to ogle—bring earplugs).

**Richard Pershing** was the non-blue marble drawer. (better luck next time--which should be netting someone some cash pretty soon!)

Handshaker was **Gerry Miller** and shakee was **Richard Blecker**.

**Next week cash in blue marble drawing is \$420!**

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**President Bill** started our program today by mentioning that 97% of the money that is raised through Rotary comes back to the community. **Ed McBride** began his part by giving a disclaimer from our District Governor that our club was not representative of Rotary clubs in general (we have too much fun). He introduced **Gerry Miller** who thought you were supposed to start any speech with a joke (which cost him \$10 bucks). **Gerry** gave us a run down of Rotary International Foundation and a history of the projects that really started Rotary as a true service club. Clear back in 1954, Rotary became involved with polio when they donated \$500 to Crippled Children's Society. In 1979, USA saw it's last case of polio. In 2003, Rotary raised \$111 million to send vaccines to the far reaches of the planet. The current RI project is to make a difference in the life of someone who is mobility impaired in third world countries. Kenneth Bering, an entrepreneur from Northern California, has vowed to match funds for the cost of wheelchairs. So far Magnolia Center has raised \$11,000!

Next up was **Richard Pershing** to talk about RYLA. **Richard** had the opportunity to participate in RYLA this year up in Big Bear. He had heard that phrase “it changed my life” many times. That weekend he found out how. **Richard** saw how Rotary helps youth in our own backyard. Rotary is a service club that makes a difference. RYLA fires up kids to make a difference.

**Ron (Spike) Hill** spoke about our long time commitment to Sunshine School located on California near Van Buren. Our relationship with Sunshine School goes so far back that few remember exactly when

## “Bring Your Own Buddy”

Today's Program con't...

that relationship started. **Don Thompson** got us involved with the school over 40 years ago. At Christmas time the Rotarians and Santa Claus get together with the students and staff. Some of the items the club has purchased in the recent past have included playground equipment, storage shed, and educational play therapy items that the school is unable to buy. Needless to say, thousands of dollars have been contributed to the school.

**Doug Albee** is an oxymoron (an honest used car dealer). **Doug** told the guests and group about the three truckloads of food that is collected at Thanksgiving and distributed to 30 families through the Dept. of Mental Health. These families with children are the most destitute with emotional, behavioral, medical, and abusive issues. Also, before school starts each year, we have been collecting school supplies to fill backpacks for these children who just “don't fit in”. Our generous club members get together and put the baskets and backpacks together. Besides being a social event, the students REALLY appreciate their new backpacks on the first day of school.

**George Wood** and **Laurie Chamberlain** from Big Brother Big Sister were here to express their appreciation for our club's huge financial involvement with the “littles”. Our annual Golf Tournament raises several thousand dollars for BBBS. As a side note, our very own **Dave Foster** does car crash testing at local races and donates his winnings to this very important organization. **President Bill Friesmuth** is one of the founding fathers of BBBS in the Inland Empire!

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**MAY 15 - DINNER DRAWING**