



ROTARY OF YUMA

# THE BIG WHEEL

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7

MAY 12, 2009

**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

## *DISTRICT 5500, OUR DISTRICT*



*District Governor Elect Steve DiMuzio from Casa Grande introduces himself at a recent District 5500 assembly in Yuma.*

I'm really not sure where the disconnect happened. I've only been in Rotary for 2 1/2 years. I sense a huge gap in club level activity and District activity. Not many members understand where or how the District fits in. It seems like the District Governor pops into town every now and then, we make a big fuss over the arrival, and then they are off and not to be seen for six months or so. It seems to me that there is this disconnect between the clubs in Yuma and the District.

Until I went to a District Assembly in Casa Grande I thought we Yumans were the only ones who felt that way. However, it was related to me that the clubs in the Casa Grande area felt that same disconnect.

*(continued on page 2)*

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

- *Spring Sports Banquet on May 20 at the Yuma Civic Center. See Ken Brandon to sign-up.*
- *Yuma Rotary Club new President Installation at our regular Tuesday club meeting on June 23.*
- *District Governor's installation in Casa Grande on Sunday, June 28.*

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## THE WORLD OF ROTARY

[WWW.YUMAROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.YUMAROTARY.ORG)

I am doing my level headed best to turn over what I call a “Clean Book” to Vicky Schram when she takes over as Secretary starting July 1. That of course is an old gamblers reference to a bookie's account book that doesn't have a miss in it. So I'm calling and getting in touch with pretty much all of you to see that the information we have on our website is as accurate as it can be. For two reasons, first of all I am very anal when it comes to these things and secondly the district has incorporated Club Runner (the program we use on our website) and information will be much more integrated. I doubt this will mean much for the first few years, but slowly our district will become more integrated. You say you know nothing about District 5500 (see above). Well, that has been the problem and we hope to change that in the future.



### A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARK

### THE FOUR-WAY TEST

OF THE THINGS  
WE THINK, SAY  
OR DO . . .

IS IT THE  
TRUTH?

IS IT FAIR TO  
ALL  
CONCERNED?

WILL IT BUILD  
GOODWILL  
AND BETTER  
FRIENDSHIPS?

WILL IT BE  
BENEFICIAL  
TO ALL  
CONCERNED?

## FELLOW ROTARIANS,

It's good to be back home after a wonderful time in Europe. While there, I noticed the world of Rotary at a playground in Slovakia and a camp in Germany. The International symbol of Rotary was on my lapel during the adventure and I had numerous people with strange accents comment about the "Rotarians."

My most interesting adventure was attendance at the Odder, Denmark Rotary Club, a group of about 35 members. They were very inviting and I was required to greet each and every member, just like our greetings here. I was also asked to give a 3 minute description of our club and projects, which was followed by an exchange of banners. Several members had been to Arizona and were interested in how we were adapting to the new President, a subject of significant interest in Europe. In discussions with the President of the Odder Club, he indicated that they were doing a school and playground project with a club in Lithuania. They were going to send an exploration team to there and find out

what other types of projects they can do. Their major fundraiser was an area fair and selling food and souvenirs of the event. The program was about CPR, but I could not understand the gist of the conversation, which was all in Danish.

The common thread of Rotary and learning about these clubs encouraged me to return to our Yuma Club and share the experience. We are all trying to do the same thing: Service above Self. Rotarians want to help their communities and other people. Rotarians have a common bond wherever you go. I encourage you to visit another club, whether in the area or around the world. It will really shed the light on what Rotary is all about.

YIR, Mark Watson, President

## DISTRICT 5500 (CON'T)

Even though Tucson is a mere hour away (and down an interstate no less) the people I talked to said that they felt all the District activity took place in Tucson and they were on the outside looking in.

Incoming District Governor Steve DiMuzio is from Casa Grande so maybe it is possible that he will have some empathy for the "district disconnect". I'm not sure what can be done about this problem. I think the only way to mend this problem is through education. Those who have been in the club for a long

period of time will have some reservations about the value of district support. We have long had the feeling of isolation here in Yuma.

In the meantime, I would encourage everyone to spend some time on our web site ([www.yumarotary.org](http://www.yumarotary.org)), on the district web-site ([www.rotaryd5500.org](http://www.rotaryd5500.org)) and the Rotary International website ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)).

In future issues I will be telling you about the plan Steve has for the district starting July 1, 2009.

## VIC'S PROGRAM PICKS

Last week Dylan DeAnda shared with us about Building Your Skyscraper on the Internet. Dylan works for Solutions Architect at HP and he builds sky scrapers on the Internet for Fortune 500 companies.

Today our Rotary club's Foreign Exchange student Thais Germano will share with us about living in Brazil and her experience in the United States as a foreign exchange student.

Next week one of our own Rotary members Diane Umphress will share with us about Amberely's Place.

## BY VICKY SCHRAM

*(Editor's note: Vicky has done a great job for the club this year. Her place will be taken by Brett Bybee next year. If you have ideas about what kind of programs you'd like to see we still have a few weeks left under Vicky's watch or give your ideas to Brett. Also, if you would like to be on Brett's committee I'm sure he would love to have some help. Thanks to the people who served on Vicky's committee. If memory serves me right I believe they were Brett Bybee, Candice Orduno and Jim Bradford. If I left anyone out let me know and I'll give you special recognition in the next "Big Wheel".)*

# MEMBER’S PAGE

## VITAL STATISTICS

**BIRTHDAYS:** Jon Matheus (5/13), Ross Rodney (5/15)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** None

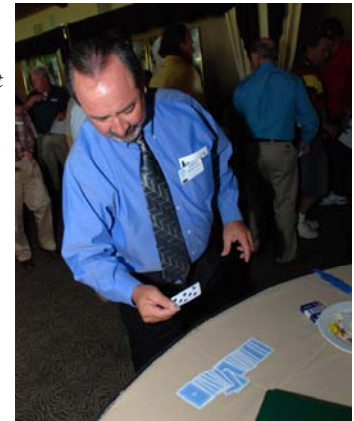
**MEMBERSHIP:** Phil Courtney (5/9; 3 Years), J Franco 5/14; 2006)

**PROUD MOMENTS:** Eve Scarff was proud of her new grandson Nicklaus (although Eve doesn’t really look old enough to be a grandmother). Not to be out done, Gary Gist was proud of his new granddaughter Lily (now Gary does look old enough to be a grandmother). Michelle Umbower was proud of Eve for her leadership of the Teacher of the Year Banquet. Michelle should know because I think she has been closely involved with the event and will be even more closely involved next year.

## PICTURES OF THE WEEK



*One of the really cool things a President gets to do is welcome new members. In this case President Mark introduces Derek Egeberg with sponsor Claude Waller, Susan Coons and Patti Bouelle with sponsor Lonie Ross-Misenhimer. Make them feel welcome.*



*Sorry Dave, you wanted the Queen of Hearts. Maybe next time.*

## YUMA AREA ROTARY CLUBS

<b>YUMA SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB:</b>	Wednesday	6:45 AM	Ramada Inn
<b>FOOTHILLS ROTARY CLUB:</b>	Wednesday	NOON	Daybreakers Cafe
<b>SOMERTON ROTARY CLUB:</b>	Wednesday	6:00 PM	El Dragon Restaurant
<b>SAN LUIS ROTARY CLUB:</b>	Thursday	NOON	San Luis Community Center
<b>YUMA CROSSING ROTARY CLUB:</b>	Thursday	5:30 PM	Desert Hills Clubhouse
<b>FORT YUMA ROTARY CLUB:</b>	Thursday	NOON	Desert Hills Clubhouse
<b>YUMA NORTH END ROTARY CLUB:</b>	Tuesday	5:45 PM	La Fonda Restaurant

## THE BIG WHEEL “WHEELY”

PRESIDENT  
Mark Watson  
PRESIDENT ELECT  
Bob Stull  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
Denise Sweet-McGregor  
SECRETARY & PUBLICITY  
Chuck Nordquist  
TREASURER  
Betty DeNise  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR  
Wayne Wagner  
SERVICE PROJECTS DIRECTOR  
George Davis  
CLUB ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR  
Mike Gibbs  
CLUB PROJECT DIRECTOR  
Jim Conlee  
YOUTH/FAMILY OF ROTARY DIRECTOR  
Jeanine Rhea  
DIRECTOR  
Eve Scarff  
DIRECTOR  
Lonie Ross-Misenhimer  
SERGEANT AT ARMS  
Jack Puckett  
Jack McArthur



*You know, as photographers, we get this kind of thing a lot. Sometimes subtle, and sometimes not so subtle little messages that convey the subject’s true feelings. It’s not that it bothers me, but people often forget just how fragile the creative person can be. So in the future, “try a little tenderness” as Three Dog Night would say.*

## MAY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 M: Jon Matheus and Robert McNeece	2
3 B: Ned Foss A: Jeff & Christie Lynne Kammann	4	5 B: Dennis Booth <b>MEETING</b>	6	7	8	9 M: Phil Courtney
10	11	12 <b>MEETING</b> <b>BOARD MEETING</b>	13 B: Jon Matheus	14 M: J. Franco	15 B: Ross Rodney	16
17	18 B: Phil Courtney, Ray Face	19 A: Tony & Elena Gonzalez <b>MEETING</b>	20	21	22	23 B: B. DeNise
24 A: Roger & Gladys Schalm	25	26	27 A: Jason & Jennifer Sullivan	28	29 B: Jonathan Lines	31: A: Al & Bonnie Geren