



ROTARY CLUB OF PARADISE RIDGE NEWSLETTER

Serving the Ridge since 1946: WE ARE PEOPLE OF ACTION

Our Club President: Melissa Crick

Web Page: paradiserotary.org

On Facebook: Rotary Club of Paradise

Our July 16, 2026 Weekly Club Meeting

Volume 4, Issue 2

President Melissa Crick conducted this meeting.

Guests in Attendance: Peggy Koehler, District 5160 Area 4 AG; Beau McSwain, President, Chico Noon Club, and wife Lauren; Taylor Etchison, Escorted by Mother Erika E.

HIGHLIGHTS:

President Melissa began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an Invocation by Ron J.

Pres. Melissa began the meeting without the President's Bell. Her first mission was to find it! Two conspirators, Mary Johnson and Margaret Kelly, managed to abscond with the Bell at the demotion. Margaret devised a fun way for Melissa to rescue the President's Bell. Named *Mission Impossible* (cue the theme music), Melissa was given an envelope describing a Club Member. Once identified, that Club member read their envelope with a clue leading to the next Club member. The progressive clues led from Club member to Club member taking Pres. Melissa on a path around the room, until at last she was led to the holder of the Bell, Kevin Kelly, husband of the thief. Great fun! A pic below shows her displaying the retrieved Bell.

Next, having completed a higher priority exercise, we proceeded with Table Introductions.

Tom B., Blues & Brews Stage Manager, stood to announce that the event will happen on October 3rd, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. He stressed that he had conferred with the organizers of Johnny Appleseed Days and received the go-ahead for Blues & Brews to begin as Johnny Appleseed days is winding down. He stated that he has 3 of the 4 bands booked and all the stage equipment ordered. He also proudly announced that the food prep and sales aspect for this year's event will be more organized than last year's so we should make more money.

Brian G. came forward to make an auspicious announcement, two, actually. He bestowed Blue Badges to two appreciated and valuable Club Members: Lacey Witten and Ravi Saip. Brian enhanced the announcement by noting that with his 23 year tenure in Rotary, Ravi was awarded Badge #1 in the Badge Box.

AG Peggy Koehler, District 5160 Area 4 Assistant Governor, stood to announce 3 items. First, she congratulated Ravi on his move to our Club. She said they'll miss him in Durham, but considering he lives in Paradise the change in Clubs is understandable. Second, she promoted the Durham Rotary's Harvest Festival that will happen on September 20, 2026. She invited all of us to attend and anyone who can help is definitely needed. Things to help with are Parking, Pancake Breakfast, Tri-Tip Lunch, Ticket Sales, set-up, and clean up. Third, she raved about the newly installed Presidents in the 5 Clubs that make up District Area 4, the North Valley Nuts. She acknowledged them all as outstanding Rotarians.

Beau McSwain, freshly minted President of Chico Noon Rotary presented information on their annual Surf & Turf Fundraiser. It will be on November 14, 2026 at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds. Beau announced it will be similar to previous events with the Whiskey River Band. Tickets can be purchased online.

Donn the Lunch Guy made a brief announcement about Lunch. Due to a scheduling glitch, unknown to us, we weren't scheduled to use the Rec Center for our meeting. But thanks to Club Member Dan E. and his staff as a team, we pulled it off. Attendance was 20 people, members and guests. The room was full but not overcrowded. You might or might not say it was intimate. Even Taylor E. didn't complain, she just put on her headphones and did her thing.

PDG Pam grabbed the floor next to provide us with several announcements. First, she let us know that Mickey is a superstar being featured in the documentary "Water After The Wildfire" about the recovery efforts by PID to restore healthy, safe water to our community after the Camp Fire. The documentary, in production over the past year, may be viewed on July 25 at 7:30 PM on KHSL, channel 12. A 30-second trailer is posted on YouTube at this link: <https://youtu.be/suuYp53zzX4>. Bonus: the trailer and documentary was sponsored by Tri-Counties Bank, and produced by U.T.B. Studios. Sound familiar? It's Ev Durans outfit. Note: The text above was sourced from PID's website.

PDG Pam continued with reminders about upcoming events.

⚙ Thursday, July 30th, we won't have a Lunch Meeting or a Social, but we will all attend the Grand Opening of Paradise Elementary School, having been rebuilt post-Camp Fire, won't we. A Meet & Greet begins at 1:00 PM with a ribbon cutting at 1:30.

⚙ PRPD's *Astronomy At Paradise Lake*, a Rotary Exclusive event, will happen August 14th, 6:00 - 11:00 PM. The cost is \$30/person. There will be a Laser Guided night sky tour, Camp Fire singalong, Smores & ceremonial campfire stories. A guided Kayak Tour begins at 5:30 PM. See the attached flyer.

⚙ Pilgrimage To Evanston. This is a 3 Day, August 27-29, very Rotary trip to Rotary HQ and more. It's organized and coordinated by District 5160 people. If you'd like to find your roots, history, and present day Rotary support team in Evanston, this is the chance. The trip is all wrapped in a Rotary package. All the details are in the attached flyer. Contact PDG Pam for more explanation of the details.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

PDG Pam introduced our new Club President, Melissa Crick simply noting that she is very busy being a member of many local Boards and advisory groups. She recently attended the Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan. Pres. Melissa gave us a narrated, photo travelogue of that visit.

A few words of insight from the editor:

Many of you know that my hearing is degraded. The acoustics in the room were lousy. I used my digital recorder to attempt to record what was said at this meeting. I didn't pick up much of her travelogue vocals. But I did understand her words of personal inspiration at the end.

Pres. Melissa's visual presentation consisted of multiple slides of photo collages, each of different sites and themes she experienced. She took us on a tour of Taipei. In the Waterfall District she fed the coy fish in a pond. She toured several markets, just for the experience and found them fascinating. She remarked that in the Lantern Village, visited after dark, the people she met were friendly and gracious. There were many more photos of her experiences and she provided explanations. But as the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, which wouldn't quite fit here.

Pres. Melissa found out what the *International* in Rotary International means. Anyone who has attended an RI Convention knows the impact of seeing the booths in the House of Friendship. You know the feeling of being in the same room, albeit very big, with the thousands of Rotarians from around the world. It's impressive and profoundly inspiring. Pres. Melissa stated that she experienced that inspiration.

She also reflected on how she happened to travel halfway around the world to find out how much Rotary richness we have right here in Paradise. She remarked on how she now notices the 80 years of Rotary impact has had on Paradise, CA. She followed that by stating the value of *Make A Lasting Impact*.

FUTURE PROGRAM SPEAKERS:

7/23/26 - 4H Club, Bill Taylor and 2 Members Describe Paradise 4H And How Rotary Can Help

7/30/26 - 5th Thursday, normally dark. Instead, come to the Grand Opening of
Paradise Elementary School, 1 p.m. (Wear your Rotary Shirt)

8/13/26 - Lacey Witten - Member Bio + An Update On The Latest From NCB

8/20/26 - PDG Pam Gray - Important RI Information We All Need

8/27/26 - Nicole LaJeunesse, Regenerating Paradise and PATCH Updates

LIGHTEN UP: Before I was married I had three theories about raising children Now I have three children and no theories. —*John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester (1647-1680)*

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THE ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST
of all we think, say, and do.

1. Is it the TRUTH? 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

THE PICTURE PAGE



