



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 August 13, 2026 Weekly Club Meeting

Volume 4, Issue 4

President Melissa Crick conducted this meeting.

Guests in Attendance: Dicha Perez, Prospective Member & Principal of Children's Community Charter School.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Pres. Melissa began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ryan M. and an Invocation by Ron J. Table Introductions followed.

PDG Pam G. led the announcement that there were a lot of Fake Bonus Points to reward.

⚙ First, the acknowledgement of the Members that helped with Doug Speicher's Community Recovery Celebration. She encouraged those who helped to stand. Pres. Melissa noted that a camping trip took place and Caroline, Melissa's daughter was there. The list of actual attendees was not clear, but it was reported to be a wonderful outing.

⚙ Then, Pam mentioned that Scott S. is on a border (Mexico) to border (Canada) motorcycle ride and he produced a "super cool" video.

⚙ Which led into Melissa's declaration that one of our Ukrainian friends is having a birthday and Ev graciously offered to put together Happy Birthday video (which we did at the meeting) to send as a greeting.

⚙ Pam also added Ron J. to the Fake Bonus Points list for the arrival of a granddaughter.

⚙ Lastly, Pam called attention to the attendees of the PES Grand Opening and requested they stand. Remarkably, there was a 100 year old gentleman in attendance who has now attended all three Ribbon Cuttings for the school, the first being when the school originally opened. Pres. Melissa mentioned that the school had burned before, hence the 2nd Ribbon Cutting.

Pam concluded with reminders about events coming up such as the BOD Meeting on Friday (past), Astronomy on the Lake, the Music Event on Saturday, August 15 (past), and most importantly next Thursday's Lunch Meeting. Robb Reddeman, Chico Noon iPP will speak on attracting and retaining new Club Members.

Heidi L. stood to remind everyone of the Astronomy At the Lake on August 14th (past), an exclusive Rotary event, sponsored by PRPD. Heidi explained that kayaks will be supplied and launched, no swimming experience necessary, low coordination (for paddling) is acceptable. The "on the water" experience begins at 5:30 PM. She noted that the Perseids meteor shower should be peaking, making for a good show.

Ryan M. noted that he is primarily responsible for the Bar Setup and Cleanup at the Music Event last Saturday (past) and Pam was covering the wrist band, drink ticket, and pouring staffing. Support of the Rotary Bar activities at the event will count as a Missed Meeting Makeup.

Pres. Melissa reminded everyone of the Membership interview for Dicha Perez immediately following the Lunch Meeting taking place in Recreation Center, the Vocational Committee meeting in there Tri-Counties Bank conference room at 2:00 PM, and the Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, August 14 in the Cozy Diner Conference Room beginning at 7:30 AM.

Pres. Melissa followed up on her recent pmail announcing that the Rotary Club Of Paradise Website is live! Everyone should have a look at it and see what you think! Pass any suggestions like additions, changes, or corrections to Mickey R. or Pres. Mellissa. The redesigned website now includes Paradise Rotary Foundation pages via a link in the Site Menu.

In a promotional segue, Gary L. was so inspired by the new website that he presented a \$1,000.00 check to the Endowment Fund function of the Foundation. The Endowment Fund has a goal of \$300,000.00 which, when reached, will allow dividends of the Fund to finance our annual scholarships. He challenged all Club Members to contribute to the Paradise Rotary Foundation to achieve the goal of scholarship sustainability. The check was accepted by Paradise Rotary Foundation Board Member Jerry A. (See pic, below.)

Brian G., RI Foundation Committee Chair, stood to offer up a couple of informational announcements. First, he acknowledged that Gary L. also made a \$1,000.00 contribution to the RI Foundation, the Big One in Chicago. Second, Brian explained what Paul Harris Points are and how they can be used.

Foundation recognition points are awarded to donors who contribute to The Rotary Foundation through the Annual Fund, the PolioPlus Fund, the Disaster Response Fund, or an approved global grant. You receive one recognition point for every U.S. dollar you contribute to these funds. You can also transfer Foundation recognition points to others to help them qualify for Paul Harris Fellow or Multiple Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Brian added that transferring recognition points to Community Leaders would be a great way to demonstrate that Leader's community contributions *and* provide recognition to Rotary! Paul Harris Fellows can check their Foundation Recognition Points on rotary.org, signing in to MyRotary, and search for a report.

Next, Pres. Melissa did a surprise recognition. She requested Donn T. (me) to the podium and presented me with a Rotarian Of The Month pin. In addition to composing this Newsletter, I have been arranging for and delivering the food for our lunch meals. In the spirit of Club Service, I contribute help whenever and however I can.

Next, Pres. Melissa made a gallant effort to organize the Lunch Meeting attendees into a group for the recording of that Happy Birthday Video mentioned above. She succeeded and we got it done.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

Although she didn't do a formal introduction, Trudi A. began the Program with her personal comments about Lacy Witten, our Speaker.

Trudi stated that she has known Lacey since she was 7 years old. Trudi said that Lacey is part of a wonderful family. Since Lacey has been dancing so long, she knows everything about North California Ballet (NCB). Even though she is now an accomplished dancer and teacher, Trudi related that there were times when Lacey considered quitting ballet. She felt it was hard, required a heavy commitment, and sacrifice of time. Trudi stated that all dancers have periods of struggles, but Lacey stuck with it. Trudi emphasized that a married ballet professional must have a husband that is all in with support. Lacey's husband Eric was the right choice.

Lacey was born in Pleasanton, CA. The family moved to Paradise where Lacey attended CCCS, PCMS, and PHS. At PHS she was on the basketball team, which taught her teamwork, but discovered her passion was ballet. While enrolled at Butte CC, she studied math, thinking she'd go on to become a math teacher, but it wasn't her passion.

In the year 2017, following the production of Cinderella, Lacey had an epiphany. She wanted to own NCB. She wanted to teach ballet and communicate her passion to others. Around that time she was working at LuLu's, an online clothing marketing company. The company was a great work environment with a boss that inspired personal growth through employee support.

Trudi A. retired in 2025 after the production of The Nutcracker Ballet. Lacey was ready to assume the ownership and management role at NCB. Lacey commented that Trudi had created an amazing professional environment at NCB in the small town of Paradise. That environment was developed over 40 years of dedicated effort by Trudi.

Lacey explained that they offer year around classes for Kindergarten to adult students employing 6 instructors. Lacey is excited that a men's class was recently added. They do 2 "story performances" a year, some community performances (think 4th of July), but no recitals. Lacey stated that youth involved develop physical conditioning, memory growth, focus, and concentration. Ballet training does consist of repetition which can become a grind leading to boredom, but there is the emotional benefit of successful achievement.

The 2 "story performances" cost \$20,000 to \$30,000 each to produce. But Lacey observed that the most learning for youth comes from being a part of the performances. The recently produced Cappelia had a cast of 48. They did three performances and had 583 total in attendance. For the first time NCB invested in a billboard at the base of Skyway! Advertising is a never ending effort.

From every perspective it looks like NCB is in good hands and the expectation for another 40 years of highly meaningful contributions to the arts in Paradise is not unrealistic. Consider becoming a sponsor! Better yet, also offer to be a part of NCB's next production!

FUTURE PROGRAM SPEAKERS:

8/20/26 - Robb Reddeman - Membership Tips & Techniques

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

9/03/26 - All Club Meet Up @ Mt. Mikes

9/10/26 - Paradise Interactor's Camp Royal Experience

9/24/26 - Tasha Weaver - Updates From CA Senator Dahle's Office

Rotarians the World over subscribe to **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?

LIGHTEN UP : Historical reminder: always put Horace before Descartes. —*Donald O. Rickter*

THE PICTURE PAGE





BENEFITS OF BALLET



- Concentration
- Focus
- Discipline
- Work ethic

- Memory
- Patience
- Confidence
- Resilience

MENTAL



