



ROTARY CLUB OF PARADISE RIDGE NEWSLETTER

Serving the Ridge since 1946: WE ARE PEOPLE OF ACTION

Our Club President: Melissa Crick

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Our September 10, 2026 Weekly Club Meeting

Volume 4, Issue 8

President Melissa Crick conducted this meeting.

Guests in Attendance: Super Friend of Rotary Phoebe Hartt; Our Speakers Maisie Roberts, Travis King, Jacob Dixon and Ashlan Vega, of the Interact Club and our Camp Royal Campers

HIGHLIGHTS:

Pres. Melissa began this meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation by Maureen W.

The first order of business was to discuss the photo collage featuring the President's Bell. Pres. Melissa suggested that the Bell had made it's way to Florida(?).

Pres. Melissa stated that she had some Thank You's to announce. First she thanked PP Trudi A. for conducting the Lunch Meeting in her absence. She also thanked David Liles for standing in for PE Mickey R.

Pres. Melissa asked Casey T. if she had any recognitions worth awarding Fake Bonus Points or Recognition Bells. Casey responded that she had lots. First in line was Scott S.

Scott was on a cross country, south to north, motorcycle ride with four companions. An old friend from college days, and three of his friends joined Scott on this trip which lasted about 22 days. The travel was mostly off road, which included climbing some high trails in the Southern Rockies. While on a trail at a 12,000 foot elevation, he "dropped" the bike, making it inoperative. He had to coast the bike downhill for 8 miles to their "support truck" which had their gear and a spare motorcycle that Scott had brought along. Scott said he enjoyed northern New Mexico the most and was surprised by attractive scenery. In the end the consensus was that he deserved 10 Bells.

Next, Travis B. was called on to describe his adventure. His son Joseph is impressed with Rotary and is contemplating joining Interact! Travis admitted he and family went to Europe on a heretofore unrecognized trip. They took a Mediterranean Cruise. Travis said they saw Florence, Rome, the Colosseum, and Mt. Vesuvius. While in Florence, they ate lunch in the restaurant at which the Rotary Club of Florence has been meeting since 1925. He marveled at the decor including crystal chandeliers, frescos, and a "Rotary Meets Here" plaque. That qualified for 5 Bells.

Not present but recognized were Tom B. and Kevin K. Kevin did the barbecuing last Saturday at the Past President's Social. See the BBQ in last week's Newsletter.

Pres. Melissa took a trip as well. She went to Yosemite to see what her daughter Caroline experienced as an intern this Summer. Her daughter does some "free climbing," which disturbed Melissa somewhat. But she met her daughter's cool friends, did some fun hikes, and photographed some "cute" animals. Then Pres. Melissa headed back over to the North Coast to McKinleyville and Trinidad. *The Ukrainian Traveling Art Project* will make a stop on the North Coast and there were more details to finalize. She planned to visit Arcata again this past weekend. If that wasn't enough, Pres. Melissa made a trip to Reno to attend the District 5190 Conference. In the House of Friendship she reconnected with the District Governor who informed her that their District is financially supporting 2 non-profits in Ukraine and that they were interested in having *The Ukrainian Traveling Art Project* visit a public celebration at the end of their International Rotary Grant. It will take place in a local museum in Reno.

Lastly, Pres. Melissa *just had to* attend the Unity Bowl football game between the Lahaina football team and our PHS Football team (oh darn!). The game was over-the-top hospitable and welcoming. They reworded their cheers to include “We are Bobcats too!” and more. The crowd cheered as enthusiastically for the visiting team (us) as they did for the home team (them). Everyone sat on the same side of the stadium. Before play began, all the Hawaiians sang the Hawaii state song. Then the football team and cheerleaders sang their School’s alma mater song. At that point Pres. Melissa was thinking, “We’ve got to change our ways,” because next year the team from Lahaina will come to visit us! Both Kelli G. and Christina Voigt, PHS Administrators, were proudly in attendance at the game. Our Club supported the visitation in a number of ways. But the big contribution came from the Achieve Charter School Board who provided the airline tickets for the PHS Team and Coaches to travel to Lahaina.

Chris R. took the mic to announce the *Magalia Fall Festival* happening on September 26 from 2:00 to 7:00 PM. There will be a live band, *The Hill Kidz*, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Lots of things to see and do: 19 Booths, a Rock Tower, Water Slide, Games, and a search for The Lost Magalia Gold Nugget. Free admission and hosted by *Magalia Community Park* with support by *Yard Angels*. See the attached flyer.

Trudi A. gave us an Interact Club update. The Interact Pizza Night at Mt. Mike’s will happen on September 21st. Pizza and drinks will be provided. This event is a welcoming for new Interactors, but Rotarians, friends and family are invited to attend. This is a get-to-know-you social demonstrating to new Interact Club members that we’re social and connected. The fun begins at 6:30 PM.

Pres. Melissa reviewed upcoming events of interest. Renee M., Crab Feed Chair, said that Crab Feed will be on February 13, 2027. Hmm...that’s the day before Valentine’s Day. Wonder what the theme will be?

>> Next Thursday’s Lunch Meeting Speaker will be Lain Hensely. He’ll be telling us about the *Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation* (LN-4). He’s also been the chair of Camp Royal for many years. The LN-4 Prothetic Hand development and deployment is the Rotary District 5160 Service Project this year.

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

> 10/1/26 - All Club Meet Up @ Mt. Mike’s

> 10/8/26 - Shelley Miller/Debbie Gagne, Butte County Local Food Network

> 10/15/26 - TBD, But possibly a Vocational Committee Update

> 10/22/26 - Heidi L. - Flag Committee and Safe & Sober Grad Night Presentation

> 10/29/26- 5th Thursday - No Lunch Meeting

THIS WEEK’S PROGRAM:

Our Program for this Lunch Meeting was a report about Camp Royal by our four, Club Sponsored, Camp Royal Campers. Interact Club Senior Advisor Trudi Angel explained that they would report on what they liked about Camp Royal and what they didn’t like. (Spoiler alert: there wasn’t much they didn’t like!)

As noted above, our four Speakers were (l-r) Jacob Dixon, Travis King, Ashlan Vega, and Maisie Roberts. Ashlan is the Club President.

Trudi has been advising Interact and sending students to Camp Royal for 20 years and never had an attendee come back and say, “I hated it.”

She told the story about receiving a call from a camper’s parent who said, “My son is a changed person.” In fact, all the Camp Royal attendees have returned to speak at our Meetings and stated, “Camp Royal is a life changer.”



Ashlan began by introducing herself as Club President, Jacob Dixon as Vice President, Travis King as Treasurer, and Maisie as a long time Interact Member. Their presentations were not canned or rehearsed, so the information as a little rambling. Put simply, all four found the week away living with strangers totally worth it. They responded that they would go again. Speaking for the group, Ashlan thanked our Club for sending them.

Highlights of the experience, to a person, they responded that getting to know campers they didn't know was the most beneficial. They praised the motivational speakers. Ashlan stated that she gained an attitude of "move forward and don't be afraid" to tackle the challenges in life. Our Camper selectees are top students, athletes, socially active, and willing to be leaders. What they got out of Camp Royal reinforced who they already were, especially since they were surrounded by students like themselves.

Challenges of the camp structure included showers, sleeping and rising, and meals on a schedule. None of our campers expressed anxiety over a lack of "screen time" for a whole week. Among them, there was no hesitation to speak about their experiences. Jacob talked quite a bit about "the wall." This classic exercise teaches teamwork, physical and mental effort, and a sense of accomplishment. Jacob's challenge was that he was the last person to attempt conquest, so he had no one to physically assist him as he had done for everyone else before him.

We should be proud that through Camp Royal we, as a Rotary Club, provided the opportunity for four promising youth to participate in this personal growth experience. What better service to the community is there?

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?

THE PICTURE PAGE



President Melissa



Scott S.



Travis B.



Casey T.

Casey T.



Chris R.

Chris R.

