



May 14, 2015

**REFLECTIONS**  
 by Hal Yorke, President  
**REFLECTIONS?**



**This Week**  
**ROTC Awards**  
**Guest Program**  
**Host: Tom McCurry**

It's that time of the year: when we honor the top cadets in the Junior ROTC programs in the Pasadena Unified School District. Due to generous grants and gifts from American Legion Post 470 in Altadena — which no longer exists, Altadena Rotary is able to provide ROTC scholarships of \$1,000 each for two ROTC students at each of the following schools: John Muir High School, Pasadena High School, and Blair High School.

Also, this endowment allows us to provide two scholarships of \$1,000 each to two graduating seniors at John Muir High School, and two scholarships of \$500 to two graduating students at Eliot Middle School for the qualities of courage, honor and leadership.

These scholarships provide valuable support to the students for their future academic endeavors. Our honorees bring parents and other supporters with them to celebrate this event.

**on . . . Clocks**

**H**ere at the Green Valley Resort where the Rotary District 5300 Conference is being held, I have seen several antique clocks. Whenever I see a fancy antique clock, I cannot help but think of the 45+ clocks and timers I have in my house, cars and garden that have to be reset twice a year. In addition to the time wasted doing this, I feel a slight twinge of guilt. As an astronomer of the pre-quartz timepiece era, I was taught to leave clocks alone — do not reset and do not try to adjust the timing. Instead, in remote observatories, we listened to the midnight gong on the radio and noted the time difference to our clock to better than one-second accuracy. We kept track of the discrepancy and the rate of change so that we could fit a mathematical formula for a very accurate time that our telescope needed to point to the right spot in the heavens.

Thus, touching the clocks was a no-no. Designing accurate mobile clocks was one of the great inventions of the Renaissance. Clocks were necessary for navigation — the combination of known

positions of stars and accurate times allowed the ship's navigator to calculate the ship's longitude. The latitude came from the height of Polaris above the horizon. Prior to accurate clocks, ships either crept along the coastlines or their crew risked their lives — like Lief Erikson's or Christopher Columbus' — when they headed for parts unknown across the Atlantic without knowing where they were or if they could find their way back.

Ship's clocks of the 17th and 18th century allowed such accurate navigation that ships could utilize the trade winds and efficiently traverse the Atlantic in both directions.

Like in an observatory, no one was allowed to touch a ship's clock. Synchroni-  
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**Greeters**

May 21  
**Steve Cunningham**

May 28  
**Roger Fennell**

June 04  
**Fred Figueroa**

# Program Review

## And Now a Word from the Chief



**F**ormer South Pasadena Chief of Police, Bill Reese delighted the attending Rotarians by sharing some of his background, feelings about law enforcement and a few stories.

First his background, Reese was born in Pacific Grove, CA in 1929. At age 17, he decided to join the Navy Reserves but found out that he got sea sick standing on wet grass, so he decided to join the Army

instead where he served and retired with a rank of Captain. He attended San Francisco Baptist College, Biola University, and Cal State, LA, where he received a BS in Police Science and Administration and a Masters in Public Health & Administration. He also earned an EdD in Institutional Management from Pepperdine. He then began his service in law enforcement — a career which would span thirty years. After serving five years as Chief of Police, he retired from the force in 1990.

Reese has been a Rotarian since 1975 and was President of the South Pasadena club in 1981-82.

He then began to share his current feelings regarding law enforcement in the world we live in today. He shared that we are going through a transition period that is really, really rough. It is basically open season on police officers all around the country. Even his son said he wouldn't want to be an officer on the force today. Police are currently a target in the public's eye and are criticized for every little thing they do. He stated that enforcing the law has become so rigid that, for instance, if a spouse reports domestic abuse, they must arrest the accused. Officers no longer have the ability to work through the argument the couple might have been having to settle things without having to put someone in jail.

Reese then shared a story that occurred during his time on the force. He was off-duty and was at the Santa Anita



Race Track in Arcadia enjoying a day at the races. He had just won a \$5 bet and was in line at the ticket window when he noticed Robert and William Ferganchick, two brothers who had plagued Southern California and were believed to have committed over twenty armed robberies, including one in South Pasadena. He recognized them from their mugshots which were placed in every patrol car in South Pasadena and recent bulletins he had received. He decided after careful consideration to approach the older of the brothers (Robert). He grabbed him from behind and stuck his gun in his back and

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### Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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 P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003  
 www.altadenarotary.com  
 Meets: Thursday, 12:10p  
 Altadena Town & Country Club  
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Rotary Int. Pres. .... Gary Huang  
 Dist 5300 Gov. .... Larry Skaggs

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 Tony Hill ..... Youth Contests/Awards  
 Mike Zoeller ..... Youth Projects  
 Ray Carlson ..... Vocational  
 Tom McCurry ..... Asst. Vocational  
 Craig Cox ..... Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting ..... Foreman Graphics  
 Photography ..... Jacque Foreman

### May No Designation

Program Chair, Ed Jasnow  
 May 21 - JROTC Awards  
 May 28 - Mendel Hill, author

### Congratulations



#### Birthdays



05/05 - Ursula Moore  
 05/15 - Elsa Smith  
 05/18 - Craig Cox  
 05/30 - Susan Applegate



#### Anniversaries



05/18 - Tony Hill & Ann Rider Hill  
 05/19 - Roger & Kathleen Anne Fennell

## Relay for Life, Altadena



On May 30, Altadena Rotary will be supporting the American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life* in Farnsworth Park by serving a free breakfast and lunch to participants. Our project co-leaders are Charlie Wilson and Steve Kerekes. Signups are on ClubRunner.

### **What is Relay for Life?**

From the RFL webpage: ([http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFL-CY15CA?pg=entry&fr\\_id=68287](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFL-CY15CA?pg=entry&fr_id=68287))

In May 1985, Dr. Gordy Klatt walked and ran for 24 hours around a track in Tacoma, Washington, ultimately raising \$27,000 to help the American Cancer Society fight the nation's biggest health concern ... cancer. A year later, 340 supporters joined the overnight event. Since those first steps, the Relay for Life movement has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, raising nearly \$5 billion to fight cancer.

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life is the world's largest and most impactful fundraising event to end cancer. It unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. The Relay is an organized community fundraising walk. Events vary by location, but all events have key moments in common.

Sparks - Altadena Rotary Club Newsletter

- **Survivors' Lap** – all cancer survivors at the event take the first lap around the track, celebrating their victory over cancer. Caregivers are also celebrated.
- **Luminaria Ceremony** – candles are lit inside of personalized bags and placed around the track to remember the people we have lost to cancer and

to honor people who have fought cancer in the past.

- **Fight Back Ceremony** – this ceremony symbolizes the emotional commitment each of us can make in the fight against cancer.

We hope to see you at Farnsworth Park at 7am! ○

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## Program

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said, "Don't move." The younger brother pulled out his gun and pointed it at Bill who then stated, "If you don't want me to shoot your brother, you'd better put that gun down by the count of three." Bill got to two before William lowered his gun and surrendered. Both brothers were convicted and sent to prison in which they made a threat to kill Chief Reese if they ever got the chance. Well, they later escaped from prison but were recaptured prior to ever being able to act upon that threat. Reese received a letter from then FBI Director, J Edgar Hoover thanking him for his acts of bravery as the FBI was preparing to put the brothers on the nation's *Most Wanted* list the week after the arrest was made. He then went on to share how much he enjoyed participating in parade's and having all the kids waving and cheering for him as he drove or rode by, and the fulfillment he got from being able to help a mother find a missing child. Bill is a cancer survivor and has been cancer free now for twenty-three years. He has been married

to his wife Kathy for 42 years.

Reese ended his talk by impressing upon us how important Rotary is to America and the world. The fact that we care and share our resources, crafts and trades to benefit our great nation and provide service to those in greater need in all the programs we are involved in is extremely significant in making our world a better place for the generations who will live on after we are gone. Charles Wilson ○

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## Reflections

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zation occurred by noting time differences to trusted clocks at ports.

Once in the early 1970s we had great difficulty synchronizing our observatory clock in Locarno, Switzerland. It was only after we called the local radio station that we found out what happened. To save money, they no longer broadcast the international gong at midnight. Instead, a technician put on a tape and pressed a button, using his watch. ○

# Boy Scout Camp Trask Fall Project, 2014

by Steve Cunningham, with most photos by Charles Wilson

Camp Trask was the ideal location for Altadena Rotary's 2014 fall project. This was a great opportunity for Rotarians to come together as a team to build three cabins for counselors that sleep eight people. Camp Trask is a special place at the top of the Monrovia mountains, tucked away in the beautiful mountain high canyons of Monrovia. The camp has always enjoyed the sound of the year around stream which flows through the camp.

This Rotary team was led by David Smith and included Craig Cox, Mike Zoeller, Tom McCurry, Kimmet Haggins, Charlie Wilson, Steve Kerekes and Ste-

phen Cunningham. Dennis Mehringer and family supported us with goodies for breakfast and lunch. It was great to see him and the twins.

Craig Snodgrass — Scoutmaster, Troop 1 (Altadena) and Anthony Villalobos — Ranger, Camp Trask Scout Reservation — did a great job driving a small bulldozer moving dirt and large rocks. Camp Trask has a wonderful new dinning hall which holds about 250 Boy Scouts. The Scouts enjoy a camp fire ring, a great amphitheater, and nature Center. Camp Trask provides a beautiful view of their Lake, which is used for boating. Scouting

is a program to teach Scouts Teamwork, Communication and Leadership. These challenging group activities help groups of boys work together to solve problems and grow in confidence. These activities are usually outdoors with a lot of physical activity. Camp Trask has a beautiful swimming pool, a wonderful, full-size Fort Rotary and an archery range.

Thank you David Smith for being our team leader, and a thank you to all on our Rotarian Team for the great work. I say, *There is know better way to know your fellow Rotarian than to get down and dirty in hard work for a few days.* ○





*Thank you all for a job well done.*