

Nothing to Whine About - Colorado's Wine Country



Did you know that currently Colorado has over 80 wineries? Have you ever wondered how and why the wine industry began in Colorado, and why it has been so successful? Steve Smith, owner of Grande River Vineyards in Palisade, will enlighten the Downtown Rotary on how this industry got started in Colorado, how he got involved, and the important role that the wineries play in tourism in the Grand Valley!

Smith began studying wine and grapes in the early 1980's. Along with two friends, he made wine from Colorado grapes in 1986. He began buying land and planting European wine grape varieties in the Palisade, CO area to supply Colorado's (at that time) three wineries in 1987. Along with a group of other wine industry visionaries and pioneers, he worked closely with the Legislature for the passage of legislation creating the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board, on which he has served three terms. In 2004 Governor Bill Owens appointed Smith to the Colorado Tourism Office Board of Directors as an at large member where he served 4 1/2 years. Today Colorado's wine industry enjoys a much more prominent place in the State's multi-million dollar tourism promotion program due to Steve's efforts.

The Spokesman's Spokesman (Astute observations from last weeks meeting) By Reed Mitchell

After a lukewarm bell ringing His **Royal Coolness** began by checking the audience for the nefarious Mike Blackburn as there were children in the room. Luckily for the kids ole' Mike' was not there. He must have had pressing business to attend to. His inventory is up these days we hear.

Announcements:

- **David Durham** announced the Club Golf tournament is on Oct. 6th at noon at BCC and we're looking for more players for the event. It's \$50 bucks so call Frank Wagner ASAP to play.
- **Dennis (Muffin) Baker** says Masquerade tickets (\$90 ea.) can be bought on your Rotary account so get busy and think of a scary costume, call Dennis and we'll see you at the Doubletree Oct. 30th.
- **Terry Toner** is riding in a Limo to Masquerade and is going to show us all how a single guy parties.
- **Terri Smatla** spoke about the Small act of Kindness program, the money goes to United Way.
- **If you want to be billed for Masquerade Tickets by the Club**, please notify Dennis Baker prior to October 5, 2009. After that date, you cannot charge the cost (\$90 each) against your Rotary bill. We also take Visa and MasterCard right up to and including the night of Masquerade, October 30th.
- **Don't forget to check out the block of rooms at the Double Tree for the night of Masquerade.** A special room rate of \$99 applies and includes a hot breakfast Saturday morning. Contact Rotarian Jane Kroese at 241-888 with questions about the Double Tree special.
- **At its last meeting, the board of directors unanimously approved the following individuals for active membership in The Rotary Club of Grand Junction:** Craig Ginter, broker/owner of United Country Real Quest Realty; Jim Maggio, Carpet Direct broker; Jerry Newman, physical therapist; and Dave Mooney, manager of Alpha Graphics. Respectively, their sponsors are Ed Hokanson, Jan Pomrenke, Mike Blackburn and Reed Mitchell. Contact Joe Warner or Dennis Pretti with questions or comments.

Happy Bucks:

- **Kathy O'Shea** was \$40 bucks happy it was her anniversary; she must have married at age 10 or so?
- **Fid had \$2. sad bucks** for Denny Mayer's USC team. His sympathy had a sarcastic edge to it.
- **Dale Beede** was \$5. dollars thankful for something really important.
- **Denny Mayer** had \$2. happies because his granddaughter pitched a winning game against G. J. Central.
- **Jan P.** (hard name to spell) celebrated her grandkids being in a Willie Wonka play with \$5. bucks.
- **Chris (Guitar Hero) Unfug** was \$20 dollars happy his kid did his homework. Did I hear that right Chris?

Warner's Corner



Now unfurled on a weekly basis for all to see, our D.D. Monroe banner - proclaiming our club the "District 5470 club of the year" - looks very much at home in Two Rivers Convention Center.

Last week, I received a letter of congratulation from Thomas B. Kyle of Montrose. He was our district governor in 1981-82.

"The D.D. Monroe banner is very special to me as I initiated this award the year I was the district governor," Mr. Kyle wrote. "It was at our district conference that Mr. Monroe presented the first award to the East Colorado Springs club."

Mr. Kyle adds that D.D. Monroe is the only Rotary International Director from our district and that he turned down a nomination to be RI president. Mr. Monroe was a member of the Clayton, NM, club when Clayton was a part of the district.

Thanks to Thomas Kyle for sharing that bit of history with us. Now we all know some of the background of the man - D. D. Monroe - for whom this prestigious honor is named. (Watch out ... there may be a test!)

On the Beat:

There's lots of cool stuff going on here in beautiful Grand Junction in September. There was a cool car show downtown Saturday and of course the Fruita fall fest with lots of fun and displays. We also heard about some midgets coming to play basketball at Central High on October 12th, which might be fun...

Masquerade tickets:

Buy em, get em, dress up silly, be there -- Oct 20th Doubletree. It's become a Rotary tradition.

Legends of Rotary Calendars:

The perfect gift for those you love or adversely for those you don't, See Reed for yours today.

Paul Harris Fellows:

His coolness had the distinct pleasure of inducting a gaggle of PHF's to the club. The extensive list will take up most of the spokesman so we'll cut back on the usual brilliant, cynical humor until next week.

PHF's :

Ora Lee, Carmen Moyer, Terry toner, Diane Schwenke and Steve Gunderson

PHF plus

Judy Hegge - Plus 1, Jana Gerow - Plus 1, Peggy Foster - Plus 1, Fid Braffett - Plus 1, Kathy Herzog - Plus 1, Dale Beede - Plus 2, Mike Burke - Plus 2, Gay Hetland - Plus 2, Joanna Little - Plus 2, Dennis Pretti - Plus 2 and George Wheeler - Plus 8

Fun Facts By Jan Pomrenke

Ok all Rotarians, have we got a deal for you! Just think - a free ad for your business, and something incredible that you get to keep and put in your own yard. You all know we are working on the upcoming **Masquerade Ball on October 30, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel which is the day before Halloween. Here is what you need to do - Create your own tombstone ... yes, that is right, your own tombstone! How fun can that be? It can be for you personally or for your business. Example: I am going to get a slab of flagstone, put my info on it (beware) and display it at the ball (it needs to stand on its own) in the Walk Through the Cemetery, then pick it up and put it in my yard for Halloween. **You can do the same thing and we want your help. No rules, just do your own thing and bring it to the Doubletree October 29th when we set up. Thank you, and have a blast with your free ad!!!! Call me with nay questions at 242-5794 or email BlubirdBen@aol.com. Terri Smatla will even have some from our school art classes... Yea!!!****

Upcoming Dates

Meeting Programs
Barb Bowman and Gwen DeCino
Program Committee Co-Chairpersons

- October 7 **Doing Well in a Down Economy**
- October 14 **Frost Busters**
- October 21 **Polio Plus**
- October 28 **Rotary Youth Exchange**

Upcoming Meetings

- October 2 **Past President's Meeting**
Noon, Bookcliff Country Club
- October 14 **Rotary Exchange Committee**
11:15 a.m., Two Rivers Conv. Ctr.

September 30, 2009