

## WENATCHEE NORTH ROTARY January 4, 2012

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## FOUNDED APRIL 1, 1969 Becoming a Rotarian

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### Featured on today's menu...

### Haglund swims with the fishies as usual



President Alice announced that the Rotary Blood Drive generated 44 units - four more than the goal. He also said that ten spots are open to go on a Rotary humanitarian project to Haiti. The project involves installing filters on wells and water systems. Contact him if you want information about the trip scheduled

for April. Randy Zielinski commended the club on its purchases of Rotary Park tiles that have recently produced eight additional sales (the most of any local Rotary club). In all, seven more tiles are available at \$100 each. Contact him or Jim Haglund if you want to support the park's fundraising effort.

Guest Gary Mullen attended WNR for the second time. On this visit, he gave Greg Brown a typed profile because Brownie screwed-up his intro so badly last time.



A challenge was put out by Jim Goodwin to identify the WNRotarian pictured to the left. If you weren't at the meeting, take a guess at who dat?

The program featured Jim Haglund's most recent dive trip to Cozumel, Mexico with Cindy Evans (who else?). Haglund began scuba diving in 1970, has been to Cozumel 7-8 times, and now goes to the

South Pacific and Caribbean several times each year to stare fishies in the eye.

### In January's Rotarian magazine...

## Rotary's image pops up frequently in Popular Culture

It stands to reason that if you're the biggest and the oldest, the "Monsters of the Midway" (that's where Rotary was born - in Chicago) if you will, a few pot shots are to be expected. According to *Rolling with the Punch Lines*, an article in January's *The Rotarian* magazine, "Rotarians make a big, inviting target."

Unfortunately, the image of Rotary and its membership, as portrayed in pop culture, isn't necessarily flattering - too often as a bunch of conservative, cigar smoking, fat cats. Certainly a far cry from reality. According to the article, modern Rotarians are actually "the kinds of good-natured, well-intentioned local businesspeople and civic leaders who hold communities together all around the world by filling the gap between the public and private sectors. They are gregarious and industrious, but never flamboyant (Ed. note: except Uncle Bud)."

The most damaging image of Rotarians may have come from Sinclair Lewis's 1922 novel *Babbitt* that satirized American culture and materialism with the so-called "Boosters' Club", thinly disguised to represent Rotary, playing an integral role in George Babbitt's attempt to climb the social and business ladder. That image has proven hard to shake although Lewis later apologized.

A more recent reference and off-handed compliment to Rotary appeared in the books on which the HBO series *True Blood* is based. One of the characters laments that her boyfriend could never appear in direct sunlight and would never join a Rotary club. And as the article points out, "Rotary, without actively discouraging the membership of vampires, werewolves, succubi, witches, and wraiths, is simply not the type of organization that would appeal to predatory creatures that roam the earth at night." Be sure to read the article for yourself.



As pointed out in this month's *The Rotarian* magazine, there are many reasons for initially joining Rotary. As time passes, the reasons for remaining as a part of the organization often change. Members attending the January 4th meeting were asked the following: "Each member is initially invited to join Rotary. Originally, why did you decide to become a Rotarian and a member of WNR (be honest!)" Here's what was jotted down by those who responded -

- Keith Hoffman was a good salesman and wonderful sponsor. He explained the networking, community service, vocational service, international service and business benefits of Rotary. After attending a couple of meetings, I realized that I needed to be a Rotarian.
- Rotary's appeal was polio eradication, fellowship and international service.
- I belonged to the Downtown Lions which was a large club. After about 10 years I dropped out. Joe Gaspers asked me to join Rotary and I asked how large the club was. He said about 40 members. I said yes because I wouldn't get lost among a large group.
- Jeff Mertes dragged me to a Wenatchee North meeting because he didn't want to be the youngest member any longer. He was 28 and I was 27. At the time, I wanted to become a Wenatchee North Rotarian because it was known as the young men's Rotary Club and I was interested in the Sports Awards. Jeff and I were close friends and still are after 35 years.
- My dad and grandfather were Rotarians so I was presold.
- I wanted to give something back to my community. WNR was my choice because I knew most of the members and I liked the sports orientation of the club.
- When I first became a Rotarian (not in WNR) it was because being a Rotarian went with my job. The second time (WNR) I knew Rotary and liked it best of the service clubs. I was invited by Bob Bullis.
- Simply thought it would be fun to be in a service club with Fred (father-in-law) and Rob (brother-in-law).
- Because Colin Brine asked me. He said the group was fun.
- Joined WNR primarily because of the Sports Awards after a friend wasn't named as a finalist for the college award. My brother, a Rotarian, also encouraged me.
- A number of friends were in Rotary and as a young business person, I accepted an invitation to join. Rotary's involvement in world peace also appealed to me.



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