

WENATCHEE NORTH ROTARY December 14, 2011

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FOUNDED APRIL 1, 1969 Sizing up competition



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• Dave Parsons was recently recognized by Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, according to *The Wenatchee Business Journal*, and received the company's Growth Award. As the regional managing director, Dave oversees 20 financial representatives in four offices in Wenatchee, Yakima, Kennewick and Walla Walla through the Parsons Financial Group. The award was in recognition of the growth realized by PFG during the past year which now includes more than \$2 billion worth of life insurance and \$500 million in assets under investment management. So, now we know that travel demands for this outstanding occupational production, along with the odd golf game worked into the mix, are reasons WNR barely recognized his smiling face in 2011.

• The RINO Bowl and Masters has now raised \$57,958 with an all-time net of \$39,449 going to the WNR Scholarship Fund. This year, the Scholarship Fund received \$2,485 according to Ryan O'Ralphie's alter ego, Jeff Mertes.

• WNR's other fall mini-fundraiser, the Arlberg Shopping Spree Raffle, is expected to net about \$2,700 for Rotary Park, polio eradication and Guatemalan literacy as announced by chairman Brian Walker at the Christmas Party.

*You still have until the end of the year to
Bring 'em Home to Meet Momma
and get your \$100 deposit back!*



From Wenatchee North's history...

The Christmas Party is WNR's longest running club event



Trainer Don Elliston gets Jim Haglund to bulk up for his upcoming bout as Santa in 1985.

to spread a bit of Christmas cheer.

Always a lively affair at various venues, it has been staged at Wenatchee Golf & Country Club for the past 20 years, or so. For several years during the 1980s, two parties were typically held - one that included kids at the last regular meeting before Christmas, and another for adults only.

Saint Nick has been known to make appearances at both events and was most often played by 6'3" Tim Jones dressed as a child's nightmarish vision of the 'jolly elf', or

The Wenatchee North Christmas Party has been around as long as Roy Miller has been a member of the club...since 1969.

Every year, come snow, rain, sleet or slush, WNRotarians have gotten together

by Jim Haglund as a kinder, gentler version.

Several memorable incidents have occurred including a conflagration of a table centerpiece accidentally ignited by Phil Johnson who subsequently tried to douse flames by tossing a glass of water onto it - but the glass he grabbed was full of vodka and the flames surged almost to the ceiling.

One of the highlights of the affair has been a blind gift exchange salted with a few clunker presents including the infamous "booby cup," wooden figurines in their all-togethers that acquired various adornments when re-gifted over the years, and a humungous blue jockstrap.

Since its inception in 1988, the RINO Bowl competition culminated at the Christmas Party with the breaking of ties, in a typically undignified manner, as well as the awarding of prizes. A Christmas Cash Drawing was also held once, in 1979, that snapped the club back from the brink of destruction.

Featured on today's menu...

Kemp thinks *It's a Wonderful Life* at Christmas Party



A sizable gaggle of revelers gathered at Wenatchee Golf & Country Club for the 42nd annual WNR Christmas Party on December 14. Barbara Tilly set the festive holiday mood with a piano solo of holiday favorites,



reminiscent of shopping at Nordstrom's, before ques formed for a prime rib and salmon buffet that left several in attendance somewhat bloated.

Game faces were then screwed on in preparation for the RINO Bowl tiebreaker that pitted the Doerr Bisons (Dave Doerr), Spaeth Wildcats (Kevin Spaeth with John White as surrogate), Haglund Savage Eagles (Jim Haglund), Azurdia Gaels (Marco Azurdia with Martin Barron as surrogate) and Ellis Cougars (Steve Ellis) to determine 2nd (\$300), 3rd (\$184), and 4th (\$121). Since Ryan O'Ralphie had already secured 1st (\$422 for the scholarship fund), the five 'weighed-in' in a typically undignified manner to determine who would receive the remaining three prizes. And, indeed, it was a 'scale taxing' weigh-in - a match to guess the poundage of the other competitors with scale duties and tabulations administered by none other than the Tidd Tax Tandem. After a fair amount of badgering, the results were: Haglund 8.4 lbs off the actual weight of 824.4 lbs for his four competitors, Ellis 18.8 off of 780.8 lbs, Spaeth (White) 48.4 off of 806.4 lbs, Doerr 51.2 off of 841.4 lbs, and Azurdia (Barron) 83.6 off of 868.6 lbs. The actual weights of the lineup, by the way, were Ellis-249.6, White-224, Haglund-206, Doerr-189 and Barron-161.8. Each wore a vintage leather football helmet of 'unknown' weight, by the way.

The RINO Masters was more or less cut and dried with Jeff Mertes taking 1st outright (\$170), Kevin Spaeth in 2nd (\$100) and Roy Miller donating 3rd (\$70) to the scholarship fund because he was a no-show.

Then, it was time for *It's a Wonderful Life* to air in living color as Ron Kemp, whose name popped out a year ago from the RINO Drawing as winner but was AWOL, once again was drawn and this time pocketed \$422 (he's now been drawn three times!). And just to prove that yes, *Virginia, there is a Santa Claus*, Brian Walker ended the Arlberg Raffle by announcing that the luckiest man in the room, Ron Kemp, was also the winner of the \$1,000 shopping spree. What are the odds of good fortune like that?

The annual blind gift exchange went off without a hitch, but was inexplicably missing the 'booby cup'. And along those very lines, Barbara Bainard offered an excellent suggestion for next year's RINO tiebreaking competition - scoring it may be a challenge, though.

Alice will have the restaurant open for business...

Regular WNR meeting on December 21st



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