

**Wenatchee North Rotary Website**  
www.fantasygas.com  
and click on the link in the Sports Awards column



**Wenatchee North Rotary Website**  
www.fantasygas.com  
and click on the link in the Sports Awards column

**What were they thinking by adopting North Poll as the name of this newsletter?**

The name of the *Wenatchee North Poll* newsletter goes back to the very early days of the club. Obviously meant as a play on words, it has occasionally served to survey member opinion, but that certainly hasn't been the publication's main function. Instead, *North Poll* was more likely a playful 'sound alike' befitting the original persona of what was referred to as "the young man's Rotary club."

The publication's original logo, possibly created by Joe Anderson or Leonard Noss and used for about 25 years, depicted a grinning Eskimo seated on an iceberg under a blazing sun, holding an ice cold beverage. For the most part, it mimicked the light-hearted, casual nature of meetings definitely not typical of Rotary clubs back in 1969 - a rather unique characteristic that has survived for almost 45 years.

**Great Caesar's Ghost**  
by Perry White, editor in chief

In our usual top-down effort to get to the bottom of breaking developments before issues go entirely bottoms-up, one of our crack investigative reporters uncovered the intention of Jeff Mertes to retire from the ranks of Wenatchee North Rotary effective December 31, 2013.

It's been a high octane 37-year journey at about 100 miles per hour along the Rotary highway for Mertes, a.k.a. Ryan O'Ralphie. During the road trip, there's evidence that he laid rubber throughout the spectrum of Wenatchee North activities. Our reporter caught-up with an unnamed source, a fly on a skillet himself, who accused the driver of never sleeping. Indeed, allegations of late night joy riding on behalf of the organization are irrefutable.

Now it appears the ol' hot rod has run out of ethyl. Despite the success of the Sports Awards as a fundraiser, evidence has come to light revealing Mertes had expressed a fear to confidants in recent years that he had created a "monster" with the only way to escape being to die...or resign. Assured that he shouldn't feel guilty after 37-years of service, the latter has evidently been chosen.

Mertes indicated a desire to reclaim about two months of free time each year that had been devoted to the Sports Awards realizing, at his 'advanced' age, there may not be all that many Mays and Junes left to go. Among his immediate plans to fill the void are to retrace the steps his grandfather took in June of 1896 over the Chillkoot Trail and on to Dawson City for the Klondike Gold Rush, and to attempt to lower his average cost for a round of golf at WG&CC from about \$400 to less than \$100.

When reached for comment, Mertes said, "I'm proud to have been a Wenatchee North Rotarian. For a club its size, Wenatchee North has consistently accomplished more than would be considered typical in the Rotary world. A most important value of Rotary, as far as I'm concerned, is embedded in the original reason Paul Harris founded the organization in 1905 - the interpersonal relationships that are developed in what can be an impersonal world. The rest is just gravy."

Our reporter made a point of assuring that this is in no way merely "drivel". The tank IS empty with no gas station in sight.



Paul Harris was just a lonely guy in a mass of humanity.

**MILD-MANNERED REPORTER of the Week: Earl Tilly**



President Rob opened the meeting by immediately utilizing the talents of our two program guests: JayAnn Merkle of the American Red Cross, who rescued Rob by selecting the anthem *God Bless America*, and not to be out done, Pastor James Aalgaard, the new Shepherd of Grace Lutheran Church, who gave us an inspiring invocation.

Daryl Miller encouraged every member to give blood to the Red Cross during the afternoon of January 6th at King's Orchard Church on Orchard Avenue. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to work during the WNRotary sponsored blood drawing. Members were encouraged to make a donation - Rich Adams assured us there is no age limitation. Members who want to give are advised to call 1-800-733-2767 and make a reservation at a time on the 6th that is most convenient and eliminate having to wait.

Joe Gaspers gave us an update on the club members giving to the Rotary International Foundation. Our club goal of \$4,000 is now at 80% after today's contribution of \$100 from Jeff Mertes. The Foundation Committee has challenged each member of our club to join in the *Every Rotarian Every Year* program by contributing to the Foundation. So far, 21 of our members have joined this effort. We received a verbal commitment from another member after the meeting as well. If you are still in a quandary to come up with an idea for a Christmas Gift for a special person, why not start a Paul Harris Sustaining Membership for \$100?

Jeff, a.k.a. Ryan O'Ralphie, gave a summary of the results of the RINO Bowl playoffs. There were several big winners who received their checks today. We all missed the big RINO drawing winner, Jim Goodwin, though. The consensus was that Jim and Kitty may have headed somewhere, perhaps pre-spending the big prize. Of course, the biggest winners will be the recipients of college scholarships that result from Wenatchee North Rotarians participating in the competition.

Fine Master Joe Gamboni enlightened the group with several deserving recognitions: we will all sorely miss our departing fellow Rotarians Gordi Northrup, Phil Johnson and Jim Haglund; Dave Doerr easily won a Norwegian speaking contest over Earl 'the toiler' Tilly.

After announcing two weeks ago that he didn't have a program for December 18th, our president exceeded all expectations with a doubleheader. First, Pastor Aalgaard, formerly of Ontario, Oregon, told of his Norwegian family roots, his last parish building programs, his wife and daughters, and his interests in carving, music and community involvement. We hope that he will seriously consider joining Wenatchee North Rotary. Next, Ms. Merkle, the donor recruitment representative for the Pacific NW Blood Services Region, emphasized the need for a strong participation by Rotarians at the drawing on January 6th. She encouraged everyone to invite friends to give blood and to perhaps challenge other Rotary clubs. There will be free refreshments for donors.

This is the perfect time to reflect back on things to be thankful for. It is a time to enjoy a time for giving. It is a time to look ahead for ways to serve others.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**TIDDBITS**



• It was especially good to have Martin Barron back in our midst, and to note that the cancer treatment he has been receiving in Seattle following surgery to remove a

tumor on his tongue, has in no way affected his classic Zimbabwean accent.

• This Saturday will be WNRotary's final day of bellringing for the Salvation Army in front of J.C. Penney. The need is especially great this year - see what you can do to help.

• Rich Adams won the Half-potted Drawing for \$37.

**- NEXT UP -**

**Happy New Year Meeting on January 8, 2014**

**North Poll editor for Jan. 8th is Bob Bullis**