



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180

Issue 53 October 8, 2015

LAST MEETING: October 1, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next 5th Thursday evening social will be October 29. Please let President Marsha know if you would like to host this event.

The winner of the football pool was Peggy with 13 of 16 correct. There were 14 entries this week.

Our Mountain Harvest Festival grape stomp team won first prize for a kids entry. Way to go team! We will do this again next year.

The polio jar needs to be fed.

PROGRAM: Mike introduced Randy Derryberry who spoke about his 43 years in the railroad business. In 1971, Philip Anschutz bought the Southern Pacific RR and linked it to the Rio Grand RR so he controlled railroad traffic from the west coast to Denver and beyond. Union Pacific RR eventually bought out Southern Pacific RR. Only 4 major railroads remain in the US: BNSF, UP, Norfolk/Southern and CSX.

A number of things have changed over time. There are now as few as 2 crew members per train, where there used to be 5. Technology changes include former 3000 hp engines are now 4400 hp. Aluminum has replaced steel cars. A 105 car coal train carries ~15,000 tons. GM and GE make engines at \$1.1 million each but with the cheapest seats! AC engines can be run in reverse to hold a train in place, and can go up a 2% grade at 1 mph. A computer sets the speed the train will move to accept coal loads at ~3 to 4 tenths mph.

Some interesting facts: The bridge between the River and Austin is being replaced because a derailed car hit it.

UP buys most of its steel for the rails from Japan because it is harder than US steel.

State, federal law and company rules require the train's whistle to blow at all public crossings. The whistle blows two long, a short and a long at <45 mph that must last 15 - 20 seconds. It must start 15 seconds before the crossing and continuously blow through the crossing and end at 20 seconds. This is recorded on the train's computer. In fact, everything the engineer does is recorded on the computer.

Trains hit cars all the time, because people try to beat the train. They never win. It takes 1 mile to stop a 16,000 train going 50 mph.



Burnie Zercher,

Annual Fund Co-Chairman, PDG 97-98

The Rotary Foundation is AMAZING! There is not another charitable organization on the face of the earth that has the same potential for doing good in the world. We, as individual Rotarians and Rotary Clubs, have a unique opportunity to be a part of this world changing organization.

Darlene Cramm and I would love to visit with you individually, as a club or a group of clubs, about the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund and the many ways that you can get involved.

One of the simplest ways to get involved, and stay involved, is to start giving through Rotary Direct. I have been doing this for years. My original pitch to the clubs was "A Coke a day." Fifty cents a day or \$15 dollars a month. Doesn't sound like much, but it really adds up!

Well, I had to give up my Coke a day. Aging issues! So now my new challenge is a cup of coffee a day. I think the cheapest thing you can buy at Starbucks is a black coffee at roughly \$2.00. I'm embarrassed to say how many of those coffees I buy in one day. Let's just say that they know me by name at all four of our local Starbucks! Anyway, \$2.00 a day, one cup of coffee, is the new challenge.

What good can \$2.00 a day do in the world today? More on that next month!

If you are interested in a club program or special event, centered on the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund we would love to hear from you!

Contact us at:

[Darlene Cramm](#)

[Burnie Zercher](#)

Co-Chairs



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 8 - Barb Heck - Rotary theme

October 15 - Jacquie Gannon

October 22 - Don Foster

October 29 - Fifth Thursday

[Program directors, please let me know who your program will be. Thanks. - Ed]