



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

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LAST MEETING: January 26, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sign up for the Superbowl pool. See Bob Lario.

Sign up to sell tickets at PHS basketball games. See Karri Polson.

Felix Belmont wants to step down as club secretary. Somebody else needs to step up.

Give speaker ideas to Randy Campbell.

The club's facebook page is up. Put some posts on it.

Remember to feed the polio jar. Also, pay your dues!

Dan Dean was appropriately Mr. X, as this was his last meeting with us. Best of luck in Kimball, NB, Dan.

PROGRAM: Randy Campbell introduced Chris Lazo, a certified and self avowed feather head. He is a member of the Black Canyon Audubon Society Board of Directors. He claimed to have been a birder forever. He insisted that all of us were birders - feather heads and bird brains - and gave us a quiz to prove it. We all know: the bald eagle to be our national bird, the name of 4 NFL teams - Atlanta, Seattle, Arizona, Philadelphia - who ran from wily coyote, and the yellow critter on Sesame Street!

Lazo proceeded to talk about the Hotchkiss Christmas bird count. Audubon Society chapters in Pacific Grove, CA and Toronto, Canada conducted the first bird census in 1900. Now the Christmas count is conducted between 12/14 and 1/5 in tens of thousands of locations in the US. It is the longest longitudinal study conducted. It is a citizen science initiative that combines with other censuses, such as of migratory birds. Each group participating in a count is given an area with a 15 mile radius in which to count. The Hotchkiss group began in 1985 counting in an area that starts from a central point in the river and extends up to the pinyon juniper level on the nearby mountains. This year 24 people participated, counting 64 species and over 4000 individual birds.

Through the years the Christmas bird count tracked the spread of a fungus on house sparrows across the country. It has also tracked the movement of invasive species. The national Audubon Society monitors the movement and other habits of 588 bird species as indicators of climate change.

The Black Canyon Audubon Society conducts other programs in addition to the annual bird count. For 10 years it has been introducing young people to birding. Members have shown 600 sixth graders how to band birds and take measurements, and how to use binoculars. Members also set up spotting scopes at Fruitland Reservoir during Eckert Crane Days in order to watch the migrating sand hill cranes. The group also sponsors trips, lectures, newsletters, a website, and helps monitor federal land management practices. Of particular interest is the Gunnison Sage Grouse, which was declared a unique

species in 2000. The Gunnison Sage Grouse working group in Crawford is working diligently to help the local bird population survive and keep it healthy. The number of nesting birds seems to be growing.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: February is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution month.

Conflict and violence displace millions of people each year. Half of those killed in conflict are children, and 90 percent are civilians. We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

HOW ROTARY MAKES HELP HAPPEN Through our service projects, peace fellowships, and scholarships, our members are taking action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

TRAINING We help leaders learn how to prevent and mediate conflict.

IN ACTION Rotary supports peace building in communities and regions affected by conflict.

REBUILD We help refugees integrate and find jobs.

Rotary makes amazing things happen, like:

Improving quality of life. Rotary members founded the People for People Foundation, which has helped 10,000 families afford food, clothing, rent, utilities, medications, and other necessities.

Raising awareness of bullying. Rotaract clubs in the Philippines conduct anti-bullying campaigns in schools to teach children how to handle conflict peacefully from an early age.

Protecting domestic violence survivors and their families. Louisiana has the fourth highest incidence of death caused by domestic violence. Local Rotary members met this issue by helping a shelter provide food, clothing, legal advocacy, and counseling to over 500 women in one year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February 2: Amy Rowan, Region 10 Aging and Disability Resource Center

February 9: Kathy Welt, West Elk Mine

