



# The Alamo Oak

*Rotary Club of Alamo*

*May 13, 2009*

**[Alamorotary.org](http://Alamorotary.org)**

## **ROUND HILL PROGRAM CALENDAR:**

Date	Program	Greeter
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Barley Tom Martin, Discovery Counseling Center	McPherson
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	McPherson Mark von Hoetendorff	Mello

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- May 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at Jim Schuppert's home.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> AMF Meeting at Richard's...noon.
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Joint meeting at Monte Vista HS with the Interact Club.

## **May 13, 2009 Announcements/Reminders**

**San Ramon Wind Faire – Volunteers Needed:** On Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> the Five Club Valley Alliance is going to have the Rotary Information Booth set up at the Wind Faire. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Time slots for each day will be in 2 hour increments from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Please contact Jim Schuppert if you can staff the booth for a couple of hours either of those days.

**Bocce Ball Tourney: May 9<sup>th</sup>** at Martinez Bocce Ball Federation was great fun. There were 150 people from 11 clubs (including two teams from Alamo!) who had a great time playing bocce ball, eating and socializing. \$2,000 from the event entry fees will be donated to Polio Plus. Save the date for next year ... May 8, 2010!

**Alamo Rotary 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The question was, what happened on May 7, 1971? And the answer ... that was when Alamo Rotary was established. We enjoyed a champagne toast and great dessert to celebrate the day. Jim Schuppert recognized in particular the 16 members who have been in the club for 20 or more years ... Frank Bolla and Greg Schuyler who are founding members, Ken Soult, Bob Myhre, Don Morton, Jack Campbell, Ron Mello, Mark Kahn, Bill Stone, Mike Gallagher, Bill Ferguson, Brian Thiessen, Dick Olsen, Bob West, Steve Polcyn, and Jan Robinson. Thanks to all for their service to Rotary and the community!

### **Recognitions:**

Bill Ferguson was back in town and was pleased to recognize:

Howard Robbins, who with Cindy was in Louisiana for a week to work on rebuilding homes damaged by the hurricane. They came back in time to celebrate Cindy's birthday on Monday. \$20 for their good deeds.

Jack Thompson and Linda were in New York City and Toronto on a combined business trip and holiday. They enjoyed plays, museums, great food ... and Jack had another bell ringer for \$100!

Al Fahrenkrog and Rosemarie snuck down to Carmel for a nice long weekend recently ... when there was good old hot weather ... 97 degrees and no air conditioning! Since it was a short trip, the recognition was reduced from \$20 to \$19.

## **Our Program:**

Thanks to Steve Polcyn for arranging to have Tapan Munroe as our guest speaker!

Tapan started out with the good news! Personal service at companies is outstanding these days as everyone works to keep their job. Spam is now a gourmet meal. Plastic surgery is out, facials and botox are in.

We are in the worst economy since the great depression. He expects unemployment to reach 10% early next year. Again on the good news front, he expects the recovery to start in the second half of the year ... slow but steady. The stimulus plan is not perfect but will help. He thinks it will add 1% to GDP in 2009 and 2% in 2010. With that, the strong influence of the federal government on the economy will last from 5 to 8 years, starting to reduce in 3 or 4 years.

Recession is the mother of innovation and Tapan is optimistic that this will lead to innovation and the formation of new businesses. This is critical to the success and future growth of our economy. Also on the plus column is the fact that there is over \$1 trillion in private equity funds sitting on the sidelines waiting for the right time and opportunity to be put to work.

Questions were raised by the members, including:

Q: With the large federal spending program and related budget deficit, should we be concerned about inflation?

A: That is not an immediate problem. It could be an issue looking out to 2011 and beyond and controlling it will be the next challenge.

Q: What about California's economy and budget problems?

A: This reflects a flawed fiscal policy that has relied too much on debt. The reliance on debt is not just a problem for California but for all levels of government, businesses and individuals. He sees this time as a wake up call for all to live within their means.

Q: Health care/social security/medicare?

A: He is writing a series of columns published in the Contra Costa Times on the issues regarding health care. The amount being spent on health care is too high and growing. With that and the number of uninsured, he feels there has to be a change to the system. Social Security is not an issue financially when compared to health care and Medicare.