

# The Alamo Oak

Rotary Club of Alamo

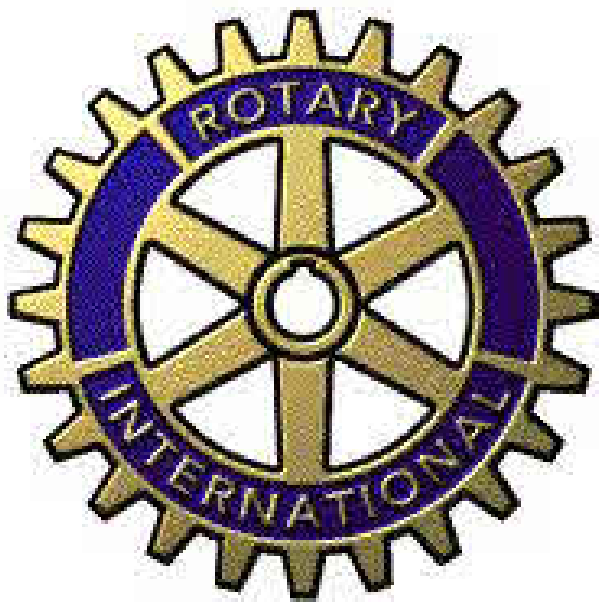
Please visit our website at: [www.alamorotary.org](http://www.alamorotary.org)



**Coming Next Week!**

**October 14th:**

**Carolyn Thiessen presents our  
AMF School Music Awards  
Super Greeter -Jack Thompson  
-and \$150 Jackpot /one marble!**



**October 7, 2009**

**Having a Good Time While Doing  
Good Work at Lake Tahoe!**

It was a conference that was billed to be “Hot, Hot, Hot”! Even though Thursday’s golf tournament was played in balmy weather, by Saturday night and through Sunday morning the season’s first snow flurries dropped several fluffy inches outside, but none of that could dampen the enthusiasm and camaraderie of the 500 attendees at the 2009 District 5160 Conference at Harvey’s in South Lake Tahoe! In short, it was a fabulous event!

Outstanding speakers like John T. Blount, Michael Mendonca, Ann Lee Hussey, Frank Devlyn, and, of course, Cliff Dochterman inspired the troops with messages of hope and calls to service. The “break-out sessions” included the opportunity to “upgrade” LN-4 hands, visit with the GSE Team and the Ambassadorial Scholars, to learn about Batwa Pygmies and other



**Suma & Preston Hold Hands** international and local service opportunities, and to play the “Who Wants to be a Rotary Millionaire?” game and win Paul Harris points.

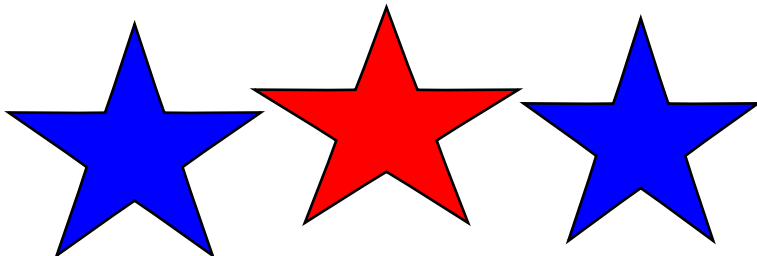
The food was amazingly delicious, the Casinos alluring and the fellowship outstanding! For those who attended it will be remembered as an extremely well-organized and enjoyable event. For those who could not attend, it will remain as a lost opportunity to do what Rotarians do best: **Having fun doing good work with good friends!** Kudos to Governor Kilmer and his team!

## Upcoming Events and Dates!

**Oct. 12th: Board Meeting 6 p.m.**

**Oct. 10th: SR Rotary Carbo Load  
Monterey Zone Conf.**

**Oct. 14th: AMF Music Awards**



## *The 4 Way Test:*

- 1. Is it the truth?*
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?*
- 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?*
- 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

## TODAY'S GUESTS

Our guests today included our speaker Ken Meehan, Linda Thompson, John Kelly, Mary Kay Foss, and Amanda Swenson.

## Upcoming Happenings

Well, here are a few upcoming opportunities to respond to the need for some socializing and fun times with other Alamo Rotarians.

Brian Thiessen announced two upcoming activities of our newest Rotary Club, Diablo View. They are sponsoring a "Hound Hustle" on Oct. 10th, and a poker tournament at Pyramid Ale in Walnut Creek on Oct. 24th. Give Brian a call for all the details on how to have fun and support this fledgling WC Rotary Club.

Plus, the San Ramon Rotary Club is holding their Carbo-Load fundraiser this Saturday, October 10th. Check their web site for details. The Far West Zone Conference takes place this Saturday in Monterey, CA.

Lastly, if you want to have fun cruising on our SF Bay, go out on [Celebrations on the Bay](#) and go cruising in style with the Schuylers! Give Greg a call and book passage on a cruise! Watch the Blue Angels rip around the SF Bay this weekend!



Having fun with other Rotarians is having double fun! Come join in and multiply the fun even more!

## Upcoming Cruises



- 9/13 Mr. Lucky's to Giants 12-3 PM
- 9/18 Dance Cruise with live music 7-10 PM
- 9/27 Story Winery Winemakers Dinner Cruise 4-7 PM
- 10/9 Blue Angels Cruise 1-5 PM
- 10/31 Halloween Dinner Cruise 7-10 PM

All tickets by advance reservation only  
Go to [www.celebrationsonthebay.com](http://www.celebrationsonthebay.com)  
To purchase tickets

**Celebrations On The Bay**

**1-877-499-4229**

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## Announcements!

- ❖ [Mark Kahn](#) announced that the Day at the Races trip scheduled for Oct. 23rd has been canceled due to a lack of sign-ups and commitments.
- ❖ SRHS graduate and 13 year-term Girl Scout, [Amanda Swenson](#), told the membership of her literacy project designed to teach children in 18 local pre-schools basic vocabulary in both English and Spanish by accessing their visual memories using music, pictures, and simple hand and body gestures. Our club has donated \$310 to support her program in two schools. Let the music begin, Amanda Swenson!



- ❖ **Father William Ferguson** was back on the job after a two-week hiatus. The crafty cleric made several “surgical strikes” into the body of the membership today including: [Dick Olsen](#) \$25 for a golf tournament win and a motorcycle trip, minus \$5 for telling a clever joke = \$20; [Ken Soult](#) \$25 for a big win in another golf tournament; [Jeff Cheney](#) \$50 for complaining that he was never recognized once in the last two years (way to go, Jeff!); [Mark Kahn](#) and [Al Makely](#) \$20 for golfing during a meeting; [Alan Fahrenkrog](#) \$10 for the same crime minus \$10 dispensation for showing up for the GSE Team dinner that night, and Bill Ferguson was fined \$30 by the club president for playing golf during the last two meetings minus \$5 for making an appearance at the same GSE event.
- ❖ Lydia’s son, Joshua Lawlor has rotated back to Iraq. We all wish him a safe tour of duty and a safe return home. He would appreciate our letters and his contact information is as follows: SGT Lawlor Joshua, 7th MAR HQ Co. 5-6/Radio Unit 41505, FPO AP 96427-1505. His platoon and section are 5-6. Alamo Rotary’s best wishes to you, Joshua!



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM !

## ***John Muir Health Flexes Their Muscles with New Building Programs !***

Ken Meehan, Executive Vice President of Operations for John Muir Health was our guest speaker today. He is the second in command at John Muir, and in his 27 years there has held many positions, too numerous to mention. A 20 year resident of Alamo, Ken has also served as chairman of the CALSTAR (California Shock, Trauma, Air Rescue) Board of Directors since 1990 and is also on the boards of Beta Healthcare Insurance Services and VHA (Voluntary Hospitals of America) of Northern California. Ken spoke about both the Walnut Creek and the Concord campuses of John Muir Health.

Walnut Creek Campus: designed to meet the needs of a growing and an aging community, as well as to meet earthquake safety regulations and the desire to address the rapidly changing needs in technology, critical care, emergency services and women's care, the Walnut Creek Campus has been undergoing many extensive changes. They are vastly increasing the number of private beds, building a 350,000 sq. ft. expansion, a roof-top heliopad, completely renovating the Emergency Department and Trauma Center, and are adding 3 new operating rooms. Having already completed both the surface parking and garage, they expect to finish the emergency/trauma facility this year and the new Patient Care Tower in 2011.

Concord Campus: the old Mount. Diablo Hospital remodeling will be geared toward creating a "non-institutional" looking environment with a Cardiovascular Institute, and extended Emergency Department, and by 2010, a new Patient Care Tower. The Concord Campus has not been renovated in any way since 1992, and the cost of both the WC and the Concord projects exceeds \$850 million! As a non-profit, 501 C3, John Muir Health can plow their revenues, reserves, and donations back into these ambitious projects, yet still needs to borrow heavily to finance these expansions.

Even so, John Muir Health seems an excellent risk for lenders because they are one of the 3 best hospitals in Northern California, have Magnet status for nursing, and are one of the 5 best trauma hospitals in the whole country. Simply put, if you suffer serious trauma, you have a 300% better chance of surviving if you are treated at John Muir than if you are treated at another local area hospital. No one wants to suffer trauma or even visit Ken Meehan's work place involuntarily, but we are exceptionally fortunate to have Ken Meehan and John Muir Health in our own neighborhood should we ever need the "best health care possible"! Thanks Ken Meehan and Jack Thompson for this great program!

