

Winter Park / Fraser Rotary Club

Winter Park / Fraser Valley Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at noon at Beaver Village Lodge 726- 5741

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Service above Self

What We Do In Our Rotary Club

By Steve Radcliffe

It is my sincere pleasure to serve as President of the Winter Park-Fraser Valley Rotary Club this coming year. We have a great club and I am proud to be a part of it. In Rotary, our emphasis on fellowship and “service above self” are the keys to our success. For a new club we have already accomplished a lot. In the recent words of our District Governor “Your club is amazing in all the projects it successfully supports. We commend you for making such and important contribution to the community.” Let me tell you a little bit about what we do.



Steve Radcliffe; president WP/FV Rotary

First on the International scene: Rotary International is 1.2 million members strong in more than 160 countries. One of our biggest projects ever has been to lead an effort to eradicate polio from our planet. We are almost there and won't quit until this disease is completely gone. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has recently joined our efforts and pledged \$355 million to the project. This together with the \$200 million that Rotary has donated means that we have over a half of billion dollars going to reach our goal. You might notice that the proceeds of our golf tournament on July 27th are going to this project.

Another major effort for us this year is to participate in a project to bring irrigation water to a small village in Ecuador. We are joining with the Engineers Without Borders to make this happen. We are also participating with other Rotary clubs in the area to start a micro-lending project to San Salvador.

Another unique international program that we participate in is Shelter Box. Shelter Box is an international disaster relief charity that delivers emergency shelter, warmth and dignity to people affected by disaster worldwide. Each box supplies an extended family of up to 10 people with a tent and essential equipment to use while they are displaced or homeless. We fund two of these shelter boxes every year.

Our club also participates in a Group Study Exchange from a foreign country's district almost every year. Young professionals from other countries pair up with local peers for an international vocational and cultural exchange.

Now on the Local scene: Two of our most visible projects are the “Adopt a Highway” and “Adopt a River” work. We clean Highway 40 between Fraser and Tabernash and we clean the Fraser River from Rendezvous and Safeway. We also work with the local Trout Unlimited chapter on many other water related projects.

Another major focus of our club is on literacy and education. We have just teamed up with the Dolly Parton Foundation's Imagination Library. We arrange to give local kids from ages 0-5 a book a month for free as long as their parents promise to read them to their child. We already have 51 kids signed up for this program. Also, in conjunction with the Granby Rotary club we give free dictionaries to all third graders in the Fraser and Granby Elementary schools. We also donate books to the Fraser Library to honor our luncheon speakers in and so far have given 43 books to the library. Finally, we give scholarships in the name of Reba Ferguson, who was a member of our club and principal of Fraser Valley elementary, and who tragically died two years ago. These scholarships are given to teachers in the East Grand School District who are seeking help in attaining further professional development.

Each year we participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). RYLA is a life-changing leadership training program for young men and women where leadership skills and principles are learned, developed and enhanced in an atmosphere of trust and respect. The club sponsors a student from East Grand Middle School and a student from Middle Park High School.

Through our foundation we give to community groups including Mountain Family Center, Advocates, Relay for Life, Grand Youth Adventures, 9Health Fair, and others. This last year we gave almost \$15,000 to fund these projects.

We have lots of fun and fellowship during the year too. In April, we have our annual Service Above Self dinner where we honor a member of our community who exemplifies our motto of “service above self” with the Michael Muftic award. We also just had our picnic with the other 3 Rotary Clubs in our area.

Please come and join us. We are a great organization with a friendly group of members who share in the good feeling of doing something for others.

August Events

WP/Fraser Rotary Club Speakers

- 8/4 Hal Koczwar - Rotary district literacy chair
- 8/11 Mike Thompkins - Grand County issues
- 8/18 Gary Coblentz - art shows and plenair painting
- 8/25 Eden Recor - Ecuador report

WP/Fraser Club meets Tuesdays at noon at Beaver's Lodge

Granby Club meets Wednesdays at noon at the Silver Creek Inn

Grand Lake Club meets Thursdays 7:00 pm at the Bears Den Restaurant

Kremmling 2nd/4th Tues. - 7:00am at Middle School Cathy Shipley Room

For more information about the Winter Park Fraser Valley Rotary Club join us at a weekly meeting or see our web site at: www.wpfv-rotary.org

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