



March 2025

Volume 101 No. 6

The 16th annual Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival



The 16th annual Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival happened at the grounds of the Milt Brandt Visitor Center on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026. The festival is sponsored by the Friends of Lake Sonoma and proceeds support education programs which bring local school children for an educational tour of the visitor's center and fish hatchery.



The weather cooperated with a nearly perfect day for February, sunny and warmer after recent major atmospheric rivers. The attendance was down a bit this year (according to organizers) the attendees enjoyed a full day of fun and festivities. Many of the crowd were hungry and visited our food booth as we prepared and served tamales that Corozon helped prepare, with help from Eric Frost and Susan Sheehy, chili, mac and cheese, and chips, as well as soda and water. There were 9 other food vendors this year, so our sales were a bit down

Denny Stead led a motley crew working two shifts who worked very hard to keep up with the line of customers during the rush.

We grossed \$2,493. Less expenses, the net taken to the bank was \$1,097. Expenses Included a \$155 stipend to the Friends of Lake Sonoma per our agreement to be able to sell food.

"The Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival is one of California's biggest and best celebrations of the endangered Steelhead Trout, which return annually to the Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery to spawn the next generation of fish,

The free event attracts 8000-12,000 people each year at the grounds of the Milt Grandt Visitor Center at Lake Sonoma. Adults and children can view the nature exhibits and learn about environmental Stewardship, preservation of natural resources and protection of threatened and endangered species."

<https://www.steelheadfestival.org/>

Regular Tuesday meetings at the Villa Chanticleer Annex.

Meeting Dates:

Mar 4: Regular Meeting at 12 noon – Gale Jonas, Beaver Believers.

Mar 11: Regular Meeting at 12 noon -Jan Gianni

Feb18: Regular Meeting at 12 noon – Kevin Dog Walker

Mar 20: Board Meeting, Round Table Pizza 5:30pm gather, 6:00pm Call to order.

Mar 25: Evening Social Meeting – TBD.

Other March Dates

Mar 14: St. Patrick's Day celebration for 3rd graders making Fairy Houses at Fitch Mt. School.

Mar 15: DCM (District Council Meeting) sponsored by our Club will be a at the Senior Center

Save the Date

Apr 13: Pancake Breakfast – Villa Chanticleer

Jun 1: Second annual Texas Hold'em Tournament.

The Healdsburg Kiwanis Club meets Tuesday noon except the fourth Tuesday of the month is an evening meeting, 6:30PM Social, 7:00 PM Meeting.

For information about the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club Contact President Eric Frost 559-802-6297 or Secretary Liz Bippart 707-227-4314.

Kiwanis ---- Serving the Children of the world®

Healdsburg Kiwanis Club Officers 2024-2025

President Elect – Eric Frost
President Elect (open)
Secretary – Liz Bippart
Admin. Treasurer- Richard Bugarske
Project Treasurer - Ron Doble
Past Co-Presidents – Loretta Strong,
Richard Bugarske, Susan Sheehy,
Jan Gianni

Board of Directors

Debby Dormire Barbara Erickson
Susan Sheehy Jan Gianni

Memorial Scholarship Board of Directors

Dan Maraviglia, Chair
John (Jack) Brandt Dennis Stead
Ron Doble Guy French
Dan Gianni Richard Yates

The Builder

Harry Jackson, Editor

Happy Birthday

Lockie Gillies – March 12
Cody Thompson – March 20

Kiwanis Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following members who joined the Kiwanis Club during the month March:

Jack Brandt -3-6-79
Harry Jackson - 3-16-04
Patti Roberts - 3-16-10
Cynthia Brown - 3-23-10
Judith Everett - 3-23-10
Lucy Lewand - 3-23-10
Susan Sheehy - 3-23-10
Deborah Doble - 3-27-12
Kathy Burgess – 3-31-15

The President's Message

Dear Kiwanis Members and Friends,

As we leave February in the rearview mirror, let's reflect on this past month. Our club continues to service and be engaged in the community, thanks to your hard work and dedication. We even are lucky enough to attract back former members. Welcome back Andy Smith, father of Eric Smith, long-time club member.



Super Supper Bowl Extravaganza

A special shout-out to Lucy Lewand for organizing the Super Supper Bowl event! We got food, learned more about Super Bowls than we ever wanted to know and enjoyed the camaraderie.

Salmon Steelhead Event

Our involvement in the Salmon Steelhead event is done. Many Kiwanians stepped up to man the booth, sharing our mission and engaging with attendees. We met a potential new Kiwanian, the new executive director Russian Riverkeepers, Rob Schwenker. Rob was the President of the Santa Monica Kiwanis, and we look forward to meeting him in our club sometime in April.

Tamales with Corazon Healdsburg

In collaboration with Corazon Healdsburg, we made tamales as an additional item to sell at the Steelhead Festival. Both our club and Corazon netted \$400 for our efforts, and we were able to get to know more people at Corazon, working directly with Cristina Garcia, our banana leaf tamale maker. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this tasty endeavor!

Healdsburg High School Hall of Fame Sponsorship

Healdsburg Kiwanis helped sponsor the Healdsburg High School Hall of Fame event on February 23. This celebration honors the outstanding athletic achievements of our local students and alumni. One of our key club members' uncle was honored and her mother, Jackie Henderson Sellard is a past honoree. Hannah Sellard is no slouch herself. She played on this year's lady Greyhounds' basketball team. The team won their league tournament, beat Ukiah in postseason play until falling to a Hayward Catholic school team.

We are moving into our busy season. On St. Patrick's Day we will be at the Fitch Mountain Elementary School making fairy houses with 3rd graders on March 14 in the morning. April 6 we will have our annual pancake breakfast and in May we will run our booth at the Healdsburg FFA Fair. Together, we are making a difference in our community!

Eric



Board of Director's Meeting – 2-20-25

Summarized from minutes by Liz Bippart

The following is a summary of actions taken and items discussed during the February 2025 Board meeting:

Administration Management

Financials

- The Administrative Treasurer's Report was approved. The Fund assets are about \$27,000 including a reserve of \$17,000 and President's Charity fund - \$668.
- Loretta's motion passed to move the President's Funds for Loretta, Jan and Susan (\$164 + \$117 + \$160) to the Scholarship Fund.
- Dick made a proposal: "As an alternative to having booths at Merry Healdsburg and the Steelhead Festival, I propose we establish a Kiwanis Parks Legacy Committee and look at ways to give our Parks a giant Healdsburg Kiwanis hug!"

Healdsburg Kiwanis has a storied history of supporting our local parks: Gibbs, Badger, Giorgi, Barbieri, all associated with past Kiwanians.

More discussion to come.

Healdsburg Kiwanis Foundation

Financials

- The financial report was approved. The total assets in the Foundation Fund are \$108,012 including 2 CDs (3-month, 6 months) and \$43,960 in checking.
- Ron recommended moving the CD proceeds into a Vanguard Money Market Fund. Loretta, Ron and Liz will be signers. The action was approve.

Grants/Donations/Requests

- Santa Rosa for "Family Reunited Initiative" - \$1,500.
- HHS Theater Dept. - \$1,000
- Kids Scoop Newspaper - tabled. Dick will talk with local teachers to get better feel for the program.

Other Action

- Judy Deas requested that funds given in Edgar's memory be a 1K annual scholarship, the "Edgar M. Deas Electrical Engineering Memorial Scholarship"

for the next six years after which the Deas family will fund the yearly scholarship at their discretion.

- The 1K yearly "Hans Jordan Strong Geographical and Environmental Sciences Memorial Scholarship". will be awarded by Kiwanis until the Strong family assumes the funding.
- The above actions were approved.

Meeting Summaries

Feb 4: Loretta Strong, Farming Pre-Grapes.



Loretta shows the last remaining Peterson Bros prune collection box

Loretta told us all about what Pre-Grapes farming was like based on her personal experience.

In 1948 Loretta's father and uncle, Norm and Hans Peterson purchased a 140-acre prune and pear farm on Hasset Lane, Geyserville. After two years of hard work the \$5,000 purchase price had been paid off.

So, Loretta became a farmer at age 9 and by age 11 was driving the tractor shown here.



Harvesting and processing prunes was a laborious process. Men used long poles with hooks on top to grab the tree branches and shake off the ripe prunes. The prunes fell to the ground and harvesters,

mostly kids, would scurry around on hands and knees to collect the prunes in large boxes. The boxes would be collected and hauled off to the dehydrator. School opening in the fall was delayed so kids could earn some money harvesting and Loretta was one of them.

Later Peterson Bros. purchased automated harvesting equipment. The tree branches were shaken by a hydraulic shaker and the prunes went into a chute that took them directly to the boxes.

Feb 11: Harry Jackson, trip to Nepal for hydroelectric project. Key Club Bake Sale.

The very successful Key Club Bake Sale auction (See page 6) left insufficient time for Harry's presentation, so he gave a short introduction, with the remainder to be continued on April 1.

Many Nepal visitors go on long guided treks through the Himalayan foothills. The treks are graded for the scenic quality, the altitude and difficulty of the terrain. Harry will talk about his trek that he was paid to go on for inspection of the Khimti I hydroelectric Project in the Himalayan foothills.

Feb18: Fran Schierenbeck "Stories Behind the Structures: Preserving Healdsburg's Hidden History".

Healdsburg Museum Board member Frances Schierenbeck is a professional architectural historian and heads the Museum's Historic Preservation Committee.

The urban renewal programs of the 1950s and 1960s accomplished the demolition of decaying neighborhoods, and the construction of new public housing. But there were unintended aftermaths – the loss of many valuable historic structures. One of the most notable losses in Healdsburg is the original City Hall.



Much has been written about these losses that Fran finds very depressing, and her focus is on those that have been preserved.

In a fascinating presentation Fran described some of the historically significant Healdsburg properties that have been preserved including:

- Cerri Warehouse/ Foley Pavillion (North Street)
- Marshall House (Fitch & North)
- Oliveto Winery-Gallo Family
- Madrona Manor

- Memorial Bridge.

Historic at-risk properties:

- Healdsburg avenue palms
- Felta school

Feb 25: Evening Social Meeting

. Back in the day, (1946) our Club was instrumental in the formation of the Boy's Boxing Club (the first sanctioned Boy's Club in Northern California) and over the years we have invested significant amounts of service time and money to the now Boy's and Girl's Club.

We welcomed Salana Whitehead, the Marin Sonoma Boys and Girls Club Donor Relations Manager, who spoke about the plans for our Healdsburg Boys and Girls Club



Rendering of the rebuilt Healdsburg Boy's and Girl's Clubhouse

Planning is moving forward to fully remodel the aging Clubhouse with a late 2025 completion goal. The gym, which is in reasonably good condition will be refurbished and retained, but the remainder of the existing facility will be demolished and replaced with a larger structure extending northward.

"With 1,300 school age youth and only 203 Club Members, we want to make space for all kids to learn and grow together. We aim to make Healdsburg an opportunity-rich community where all young people can achieve our 4 core outcomes of:

- Academic Success
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Good Character
- Creative expression"

<https://www.bgcsonoma-marin.org/healdsburgcampaign>

Dick Bugarske discussed his proposal that "we establish a Kiwanis Parks Legacy Committee and look at ways to give our Parks a giant Healdsburg Kiwanis hug!" (see Board Minutes, page 3).

The proceeds from our booths at Merry Healdsburg and the Steelhead Festival have been diminishing due to increased local business competition and the effort required to continue these events is longer appealing, Dick's proposal is an alternative to having booths at Merry Healdsburg and the Steelhead Festival.

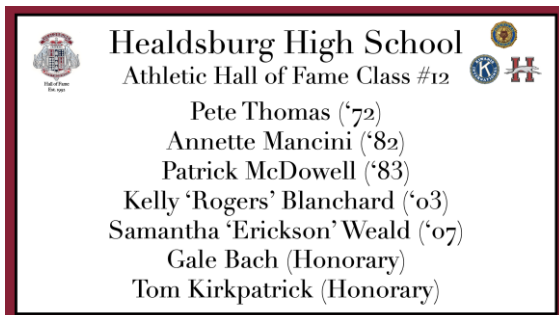
Healdsburg Kiwanis' history of supporting our local parks:

- Gibbs Park: Bryon Gibbs was a Kiwanis member and Kiwanis Lt. Governor. The Healdsburg organization most responsible for its creation, notably the Kiwanis Club.
- Badger Park: Doug Badger was a founding member of the Lighting Committee with Kiwanians Clarence Ruonavaara, Art McCaffrey and Francis Passalacqua. (Our Key club has had workdays at the park).
- Giorgi Park: Al Giorgi was Police Chief and Scout Master for Kiwanis Sponsored Troop 21. (Our Club helped build the park and has had workdays there).
- Barbieri Park: Al Barbieri was a long-time Kiwanis member, and our Club was instrumental in creation of the Boy's and Girl's Club in 1946 and has supported it for years.

Final Note: Our Healdsburg Parks could use some TLC and working with the City Parks Dept., we could make a difference and lean into our Motto: **We Build.**

Feb 23: HHS Hall of Fame.

Our Club, along with our partners (HHS, HHS Key Club, HHS Boosters & the American Legion, Post 111) hosted the HHS Athletic Hall of Fame on February 23 in Smith Robinson Gym at HHS. Close to 200 people were in attendance. Our Key Club was represented by Hannah Sellards whose mom is in the Hall of Fame. Seven new members were inducted, and the speeches were heartwarming and inspirational.



Geyserville Pancake Breakfast February 9 - Interclub!



Denny, Rick, Patti, Anna, & Susan



Happy Birthday Liz!

\$\$Happy/Sad & other Stories

Denny Stead is happy to be leaving for New Orleans in 2 days to meet Joanne. Also, a note to Dick on his proposal: "I see where you're going, and I like it!"

Eric Frost is very happy that the Boy's and Girl's Club is getting a new place.

Anna Grant: Bad news – spent 1½ hours at Mom's storage unit while Mom went through her stuff. Good News – Mom said maybe(??) time to get rid of some stuff.

Key Club baked goods auction

On February 11, four Key Club members attended our meeting, bringing a collection of baked treats for auction. Champion auctioneer Denny Stead worked the bidders for a total of \$690 for benefit of Key Club projects.



The Builder - – KIWANIS CLUB OF HEALDSBURG

Kiwanis Meetngs 2025			
	PROGRAMS	GREETERS	THOUGHT OF THE DAY
Feb. 4	Loretta S. •• Life before Prunes	Susan & Harry	Liz
Feb. 11	Harry J. •• Nepal (Intro)	Jim	Susan
Feb. 18	Saved Hlbg •• Fran Schierenbeck	Denny	Jim
Feb. 25	Evening Meeting (TBD)	Barbara	
••••	••••	••••	••••
Mar. 4	Gail Jonas •• Beaver Believers	Melanie & Bob T.	Liz
Mar. 11	Jan Gianni		
Mar. 18	Kevin - Dog Walker (Margie S.)		
Mar. 25	Evening Meeting (TBD)		
••••	••••	••••	••••
Apr. 1	Harry J. •• Nepal Water Project		
Apr. 8			
Apr. 15			
Apr. 22			
Apr. 20	Evening Meeting (TBD)		
••••	••••	••••	••••
May. 6			
May. 13			
May. 20			
May. 27	Evening Meeting (TBD)		

Healdsburg Kiwanis Club 2025 Events Schedule

Pancake Breakfast – Villa Chanticleer Apr. 13

Twilight Parade May 22

FFA Fair Booth at Rec Park May 22-24

Texas Hold'em at Longboard Jun. 1

Brandt's Beach BBQ Aug. 23

Other events to be determined