Christmas Tree sales off to good start

First tree delivery on November 23

Christmas tree lot sales got off to the usual chaotic start with first day gross sales of $9603 and a total gross of $29,396 by the end of November.

Lot set up day was the morning of Saturday November 19 under heavy rains, thoroughly soaking everyone and everything. Stringing wire on the posts was finished in a short time despite the challenging conditions. The signs were put up nearly straight and level and remained so despite the post holes filling with water and mud making the post setting task difficult. The first tree delivery occurred on November 23 followed by the remainder on November 28 and the lot is open for business.

Delivery day
The President’s Message

TREES, TREES, TREES

With the Holiday’s upon us, as Kiwanians that can mean only one thing: having a successful Christmas tree lot. Quite simply, that means a lot of work and commitment from the entire club. For this, we are truly fortunate to have members like Rich Thomas and Jerry Strong who have dedicated themselves to make it, our largest fund raiser successful. However, we all know it is also something that cannot be accomplished alone. To borrow a phrase from the 90’s, “It takes a village” which means participation by all of us as Kiwanians.

The good news is so far we have made an impressive start. On Saturday when the lot set up was scheduled, I was proud to see almost 20 members show up despite a steady rain which thoroughly soaked everyone. Even Jason’s son Jackson was a trooper, helping his dad string the vineyard wire between the posts to hold up the trees. On Tuesday morning when the trees were delivered, it was encouraging to see ten more hearty soles show up to assist the Day Labors with physical job of unloading all the trees. This included a herculean effort by Roger Dormire who, as he has done for many years, jumped into the back of the semi’s cargo bed to hand down close to 600 trees to the rest of us who carried them to their designated area in the lot. It was also impressive to see folks like Denny Stead pick up and carry a 7 foot Doug Fir by himself (not bad for an old guy!). As I watched this unfold, I could not help but feel how very fortunate our club (and more important our community) is to have such dedicated members who do not hesitate to serving us all.

While these efforts are remarkable, much work remains to fill the shifts necessary to keep the lot running. That means if you have not recently made it to a meeting or seen the shift schedule, you make a quick trip down to the lot and sign up for your three shifts (you are welcome to sign up for more). While this may feel challenging with family obligations and all the other activities that come with the holidays, Rich and Jerry have made this much easier for all of us. For one, all shifts have been shortened from their times from previous years. Second, with the assistance of workers from the ARC, Day Center and Troop 21, your duties are not so much “hefting” trees, but to be a friendly salesperson and face to the Kiwanis Club of Healdsburg. So, if you’ve been a stranger to the club (and more important our community) is to have such dedicated members who do not hesitate to serving us all.

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Wishing you a warm Christmas season

Randy

Joy to The World, Our Trees Are Here.
Let Rich and Jerry cheer!
The tree filled truck finally arrived,
we all unloaded and survived.
Calling out size and type,
Guy, Vern, Rowdy and Ron,
Susan, Cindy, Randy and Jan,
Rich, Jerry, Denny and Dick
worked with a local crew of 10 and continued the creation of the 2016
Healdsburg Kiwanis Christmas Tree Lot.

Bailey gives trees the sniff test
Board of Directors Meeting

Summarized from minutes by Liz Bippart

The following is a summary of actions taken and items discussed during the Board meeting for November 2016:

Financials

- Admin Treasurer Dick Bugarske reported an overall decline in administration fundraising for the past two years. Proceeds from Brandt’s Beach, the September golf tournament, and Lotto are the main earning sources for this fund that pays for annual club dues and other operating expenses.
- Project Treasurer Ron Dobley reported account balances: checking account $33,895; Christmas Tree Lot $12,061, and the Money Market Fund $3,100. In October, $19,600 was paid for Christmas trees and $2,881 for dictionaries.

Grant requests

- No grant requests were received in November.
- A sample Donation Application Form to be completed by all groups requesting donations from Healdsburg Kiwanis was approved. This form (plus a written letter of request) will facilitate the tracking of donations throughout the process.
- Rick Norman has created a draft for the Donations/Gift Budget for 2016/17. Historical data has been used to assist the board in determining approval and payout of requested funds throughout the year.

Other discussion and action

- Christmas Tree Lot: trees will be delivered on 11/22 or 11/23. Set-up of the lot will be Saturday, 11/19 at 9 AM. Michael has again been hired for the full-time manager position. A part-time employee has also been hired. New weekday shift hours are Noon-3 and 3-6 PM.
- Rick Anixter reviewed the decision to cancel the New Year’s Eve party. The expenses are approximately what was expected in case of cancellation.

President’s Charity Fund

Past President Susan Sheehy has announced her decision regarding the donation of the $1200+ in her President’s Charity Fund. She will turn the funds over to the Key Club to purchase gifts for The Salvation Army’s Angel Tree program. The key Clubbers will fill the wish list for 60 needy kids and later help with the distribution to all the kids on December 22.

Meeting Programs

November 1:

There was no scheduled speaker on November 1. Membership chair Loretta strongly introduced a new member recognition game: “The Buccaneer of the month”. Loretta read a list of highlights, accomplishments and events in the Buccaneer’s live and the first person to guess his/her identity won a prize. The first recipient of the honor was Richard Yates. Among his life highlights: he was born in Billings Montana; he is afraid to get up and speak in front of people.

President Randy Collins and the first Buccaneer of the Month, Rowdy Yates

November 8: Roger Dormire – Slides from Guinea-Bissau Trip

In a very interesting and informative presentation during our November 8 program, Roger Dormire showed slides taken during his recent mission to Guinea-Bissau. Guinea-Bissau is a small country about the size of Massachusetts, located between the West African nations of Senegal and Guinea. It is an extremely poor country with 80% unemployment and a life expectancy of 47 years. Since the country’s independence from Portugal, the infrastructure has collapsed and there is no source of clean water, no sewer, or garbage
The country is politically unstable. Since the current government is military, it cannot receive foreign aid.

Roger described the grueling 70-hour trip from SFO to Bissau consisting of air, ferry, and taxi.

Roger’s mission was two-fold: meeting with government officials regarding the factory recently established to produce in-home point-of-use water filters and visiting the mission’s orphanage.

**November 15:** Tina Panza – Sonoma County Bike Coalition

Tina Panza, Education Director of the Sonoma County Bike Coalition in an interesting presentation on November 15 described the many education and encouragement programs provided by the organization.

The Safe Routes to School program offers a variety of options for kids, teens and adults to receive bicycle safety education and bicycling skill/safety practice. In-school On-Bicycle Classes (aka “Rodeos”) are “on-bicycle PE classes” that take place during the school day, on the school campus. All participating students have their helmets fitted (or can to purchase a low-cost helmet or borrow a loaner), their bicycles adjusted (or borrow a loaner bicycle), and engage in instructor-led, on-bicycle skill/safety instruction on a large course set-up on the school blacktop.

[www.bikesonoma.org](http://www.bikesonoma.org)

**November 29:** – CWB-iDo26.2, Dr. Joseph Clendenin

Dr. Joseph Clendenin of the Center for Well-Being described the iDo26.2 Program an innovative walking/running program that encourages regular physical activity in Sonoma County to create a positive exercise experience.

Students work towards completing at least one marathon distance of 26.2 miles (13.1 miles for grades K-1) during the academic school year. The kids walk, jog or run on a school grounds course at their own pace during school, after school or while walking and running with family members.

Successful “marathoners” receive iDo26.2 FEET each five miles they complete and get an iDo26.2 T-Shirt in May. Also, each student receives an iDo26.2 Certificate and is recognized in a school assembly in May.

CWB-iDo26.2 is privately funded and free for all schools and students in Sonoma County. The program operates in over 70 Elementary schools in the County with more than 13,000 participating during the 2016/17 academic year. The program is entirely volunteer run and has no paid staff. It receives no district or county support and survives on donations to support the $4-per-student costs.


**Third Grade Dictionaries Distribution**

The Healdsburg Kiwanis First Book Project began on October 28, with the distribution of 108 dictionaries to all third graders at Fitch Mountain Elementary school. A total of 208 dictionaries were given to every third grader in all the local elementary schools. The other schools are St. Johns, Alexander Valley, West Side and the Healdsburg School.

This marks the 16th year of this program. Over 3000 dictionaries have been given out since the program’s inception. The dictionaries are obtained from Costco at a significant discount ($11.50 vs. $22.95 list price). The total cost to the project fund was about $2400.

Denny Stead talks to the Fitch Mountain third graders about their dictionaries
The first annual GutBuster Fun Run and Walk was held on the morning of November 5. A total of 230 runners had three courses to choose from: a 3K flat course around town, the 10K around Fitch Mountain and a 12.5K partial trail course over Fitch Mountain. Spearheading the event, was Vern Losh, assisted by about 70 volunteers including 35 Kiwanis members monitoring the intersections.

The winners were: 3K, Jason Beltran, 13:45; 10K, Karen Teuscher of Santa Rosa, 44:04; 12.5K, Brian Casmey, of Cloverdale, 1:01:18.

The purpose of the run is to raise awareness of stomach cancer, the third leading cause of cancer death. Net proceeds from the race were about $10,000 to be donated to No Stomach for Cancer and the Ceres Community Project.

Special Birthdays

Roger Dormire and Dick Bugarske sing a special “mellow and harmonious” happy birthday to Dan Gianni

Patti Robarts requested a special happy birthday song from everyone

Jan Gianni requested a special birthday song from her favorite guys

Postcards

Randy Collins – Texas
Ron & Debra Dolby - London
Confessions of travelers not sending postcard:
Cindy Schwartz – Portland
Kurt Hahn – Maine and Texas
$$ Happy/Sad $$

Randy Collins happy to thank Susan Sheehy for hosting a great Halloween party.

Judy Everett happy to welcome potential new members.

Patti Robarts sorry for acting silly in front of potential new members.

Denny Stead happy thank the volunteers of the pig roast crew.

Kurt Hahn happy for a one-month trip including 3 weeks in Maine enjoying a 3-pound lobster, and 1 week in Texas visiting grandchildren.

Rich Iverson happy to donate $90 to commemorate his 90th birthday.

Liz Bippart happy that Loretta stepped forward to host the women members party.

Denny Stead sad that the New Year’s Eve party was canceled.

Roger Dormire happy to work unloading Christmas trees, sad he fell off the truck.

Diana Blakely expresses her “gratitude” to everyone who worked the Pig Roast making it a great event.