

A brief HISTORY of Buena Park Rotary Club, California 90620 USA

Club number 822 in District 5320

Location:

Buena Park is located in the center of Southern California. When our Rotary Club was chartered in 1955, Buena Park was a farming community. Knott's Berry Farm is a well-known tourist destination in Buena Park. One of our first members was Walter Knott. Our Club meets at Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant each week for Lunch.

The Beginning:

Buena Park's Charter meeting was on Oct 18, 1955. We were one of the first service clubs in town. Buena Park was sponsored by Norwalk Rotary, Norwalk was sponsored by Whittier Rotary in 1951, and Whittier was sponsored by LA 5 Rotary in 1922.

Our club sponsored:

Savanna High Interact, Anaheim, CA in 2004, **Buena Park High Interact**, Buena Park, CA in 2005, **North Orange County Community Rotaract**, Buena Park, CA in 2005, **Hope International University Rotaract** Fullerton, CA in 2006, and **Soka University Rotaract**, Aliso Viejo, CA in 2006.

Events:

One annual event pioneered by Buena Park Rotary was Old Time Days now called Silverado Days, an annual city-wide family event in the park. At Silverado Days, BP Rotary sponsors Buena Park High at the Chili Cook-off each year. Our club was a big supporter of the Buena Park Boys and Girls Club in constructing their facility on Knott Ave. The Club works with other groups in Buena Park, like the Buena Park Woman's Club, on the annual needy Children's Christmas Shopping Spree. Each year the club is a sponsor of the city-wide Memorial Day Program, in which Rotary, and other local clubs like the American Legion, Woman's Club, Lions, and Knights of Columbus rotate being the lead club.

Over the years, Buena Park Rotarians have teamed with Sister Clubs in foreign countries, like India, to provide fresh water for rural villages. In 2010, our club supported relief efforts for Haiti. Buena Park Rotary supports the local schools and the Library reading program. Our members plant trees each year in the community. Our club ran a Design Excellence program where residents and businesses with new construction or remodels can be honored at our awards luncheon. In January 2008, our club hosted a dinner for RI President-Elect DK Lee and his wife Young at the Knott's Resort Hotel. In 2009, we hosted the District-wide Rotary Business Leadership Awards Luncheon at the Knott's Hotel. In 2010, our club facilitated the District 5320 Annual Conference being held at Knott's Berry Farm.

Every year, the club honors both a Distinguished Rotarian and a non-Rotarian Buena Park Citizen-of-the-Year. For each of the local school districts, we honor both a Distinguished Teacher and a Classified Employee. In 2011, we initiated an annual New Generation Award to recognize a young adult in our community who does exemplary community service, and follows the Four Way Test.

For local youth, we have a College Scholarship Award for our Outstanding Interactors. Each year, we send High School Students to (RYLA) Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camp, hold a High School Speech Contest, a Vocational Table-top workshop discussion at the High School, participate in joint Interact/Rotary meetings and Community Service Projects. Some of the service projects are Scouting for Food, Beach Cleanup, Police Open House, and sending care packages to Troops overseas.

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Club Presidents:

Charter President was Carl Lollin 1955-56,
Obie Callender 1956-57, Ray Andrews 1958-59

Charles Pink 1974-75, Jerry Todd 1975-76, Rick Miller 1976-77, Murry Sportsman 1978-79, Steve Rach 1979-80

Chandan Sen 1990-91, Ed Marks 1991-92, Dale Gates 1992-93, Mark Barber 1993-94, Veena Desai 1994-95 Ed Marks 1995-96, Nancy Davis 1996-97, Jim Paisley 1997-98, Tom Polley 1998-99, George West 1999-2000, Tom Polley 2001-02 George West 2002-03 Kay Lee 2003-04, Dennis Salts 2004-05, Sam White 2005-06, Steve Chen 2006-07, Shailesh Shah 2007-08, Baron Night 2008-09, Maha Ryan 2009-10, Christiane Salts 2010-11, Elizabeth Swift 2011-12

Prominent Members:

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Walter Ehlers, Knott's Berry Farm Founders Walter and Cordelia Knott, and their Grandson Steve Knott, US Congressman Ed Royce, County Supervisor & State Assemblyman Chris Norby, Past Mayor Tony Fonte, Past Mayor Patsy Marshall, City Council Member and Buena Park Elementary School District Trustee Elizabeth Swift, Centralia School District Centralia School District, Buena Park Library District and Chamber of Commerce Trustee Dennis Salts, Trustee Garden Grove School District George West, Superintendent Diane Scheerhorn, City Council Member Miller Oh, International Humanitarian Sam Kim.

Rotary Leaders:

District 5320 AG 2006-08, Youth Services Director 2007-09, Vocational Director 2009-11, Dennis Salts, District AG Steve Chen 2007-09, District AG 2006-08, Sergeant at Arms 2007-08 Tom Polley, George West District Rotaract Chair 2006-08, Co-Chairman of District 5320 Rotary Business Leadership awards Christiane and Dennis Salts. District 5320 Community Service Director 2011-12 Dennis Salts.

Foundation Donors: 100% Paul Harris Fellows Club 2009

Paul Harris Fellows: Dennis Salts, Christiane Salts, George West, Ed Marks, James Paisley, Tom Polley, Diane and Steve Scheerhorn, Steve Chen, Shailesh and Swati Shah, Baron Night, Tony Fonte, Carrie Salts, Tracy Salts, Kay Lee, Chris Norby, Don Prescott, Obie Callender, Reginald Callender, Irene Marks, Richard Westermann, EJ Andrews, Col. Harry Allen Austin, Mark Barbour, Frank Buschor, Victoria Buschor, Nancy Davis, Dale Gates, Robert Graves, Sally Holliday, Fred Pilling, Mary Recella Austin Salts, Fritz Oliver Salts, Ralph Selby, LC Storm, Elizabeth and Greg Swift, Michael Mahoney, Maha Ryan, Edwin Lucas, David Caldwell, Miller OH, Shari Brekenfeld, Steve Knott, Walter and Rolland Ehlers, Woo and Mina Lim, Sam Kim, Richard Clarke IV, Armie Bailey, Shari Brekenfeld.

The club continues to meet at Mrs Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant most weeks of the year at 12:00 PM. Visitors are welcome.

Rotary International Awards received by Buena Park Rotarians

The Rotary International Family and Community Service Award

Recognition for exemplary Service to Family and Community

2008 Christiane Salts, 2010 Connie Chen, 2011 Medal of Honor Recipient Walter Ehlers

The Cliff Dochterman International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians Award
Awarded to exemplary Rotarians in the name of Past RI President Dr. Clifford Dochterman
2008 Dennis Salts, 2010 Christiane Salts.

Rotary International Distinguished Presidential Citation 2010-11

Buena Park Rotary Club President Christiane Salts

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IFRS at 2005 RI Convention



Shailesh Shah Club President



RI President Glen Estee



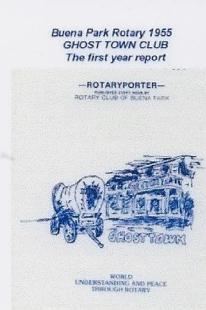
Literacy Donation at Buena Park SD



RI Pres-Elect DK Lee with BP members



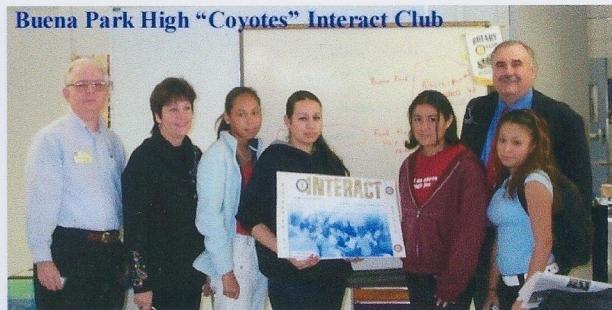
RYLA 2008



1955 Club Newsletter



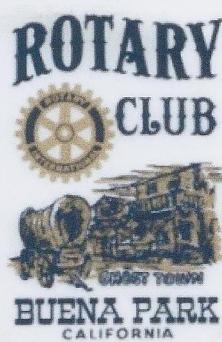
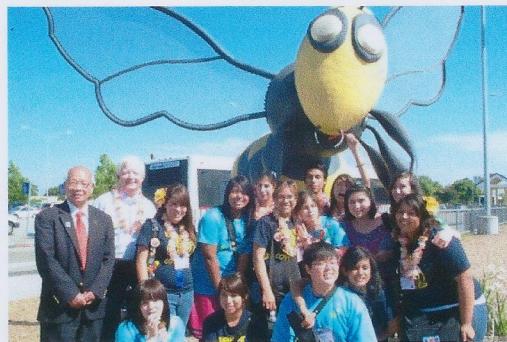
Pinning Rotaract President



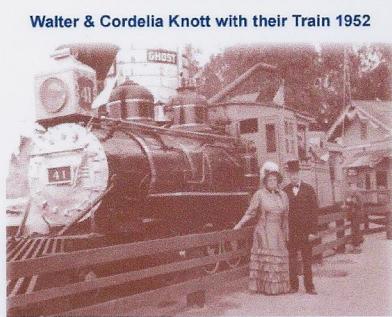
Buena Park Interact Charter meeting



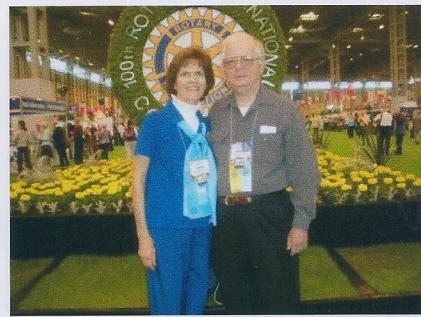
Buena Park Interactors attend the LA2008 RI Convention



Club Banner



Walter & Cordelia Knott



Christiane & Dennis Salts RI 2009

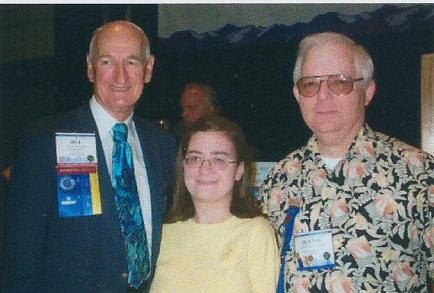


Salts's and Kerry's in 2008

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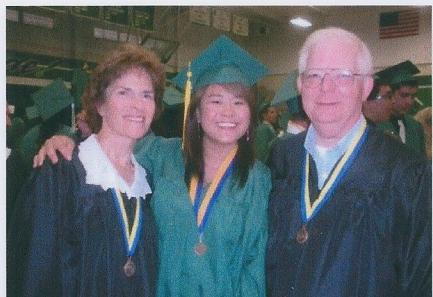
Elizabeth, Deepa & Christiane



RI Pres Bill Boyd, Carrie & Dennis



Donation to School District



Christiane, Sothy, & Dennis



BPHS Chili Cook-off Team



Steve and Frances Knott



PDG Jim Young & Dennis



Officer Sells with Rotarians



Carrie Salts & Wilma Davenport



Barbara Michel Citizen of the Year



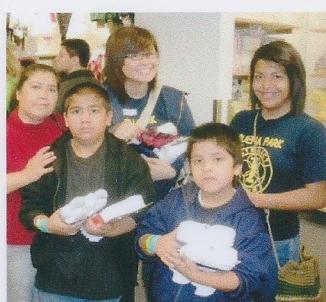
Silverado Ball



Donation to BP Library



Leadership Awards



Christmas Shopping

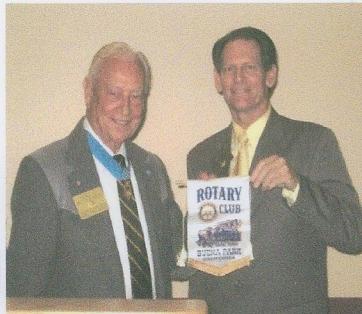


Community Service Award



Teacher of Year

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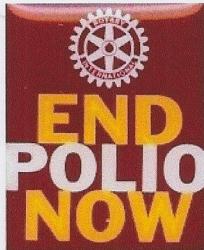


Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Walter Ehlers Honored BP Rotary Honored

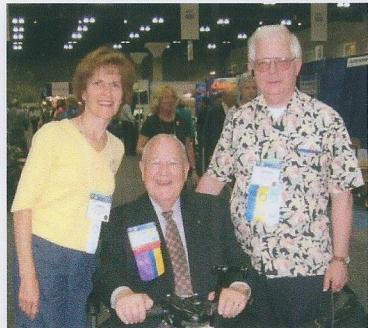


Santa at Little Coyotes Pre-school

Andy & Elmer Books Read Across America



On Polio Day Rick Kneeshaw speaks at Buena Park Rotary



RI Past President Cliff Dochterman



Dennis & Chris



RYLA Campers



PDG Mike Abdalla & Jean with BP Rotarians

Club Family Party

DGE Greg Owen & Valerie