



Edgard Garcia, President 2016-2017

Celebrate Rotary

Number 39 for The Week of May 18, 2017

## Bicycle Across Cuba



Randy Miles introduced the speakers, Brian McNeece and Ray Soto, who spoke about their bicycle trip across the Country of Cuba. In January of 2017, Ray, Brian and Brian's son, traveled across Cuba by bicycle. They rented bicycles and were smart enough to start cycling from the North of the Country so they were traveling with the prevailing winds. I know I wouldn't have thought of that!

They reflected, through their pictures, a crumbling Cuba, old cars, and a somewhat prevailing menu of chicken, pork, banana chips, papayas, rice, etc. They also celebrated Ray Soto's 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday during the trip.

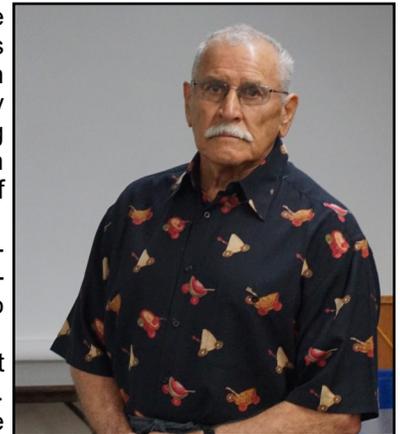
They spoke of the general populace needing a permit to go to a beach (which was watched over by the police). They had pictures of a freeway with no cars. They spoke

of a number of old cars with Chinese diesel engines. They also spoke of the "Comite de la Defensa de la Revolucion" that encouraged you to spy on your neighbors.

They stayed in casas particulares or personal homes and reflected on the rationing of foods. They spoke about the historical sugar cane industry and the attendant slavery back in Cuba's history.

They also spoke about the fact that most of the cities had public WiFi which you could use with a purchased code. It was very entertaining!

Thanks to Brian McNeece, Ray Soto, and Randy Miles for providing us with this excellent program.



## Visiting Rotarians and Guests of Rotarians



There was a total lack of visiting Rotarians. Past President, Randy Miles, introduced visitor Janina Soto, a former El Centro Rotarian. Jennifer Thomason introduced visitor Patty Diaz, a registered nurse with Heart and Hand. Todd Evangelist introduced visitor David "Rookie" Pena, the new football coach for Central Union High School.



## POT



Bob Barros won the \$19.00 weekly drawing. However, he did not win the large pot which was carried over to next week.

## Pledge, Prayer and Song



President Edgard began the meeting with the pledge led by Trish McNeece, the blessing/prayer by Ron Griffen (i.e. the professional) and the patriotic song led by Bobby Brock, the honorable Derek Quan, and the honorable Kris Becker (i.e. the President Elect of this organization).

The Four Way Test  
of the things we think, say or do guides Rotarians.

The test is as follows:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Does it promote **GOOD WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIP**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

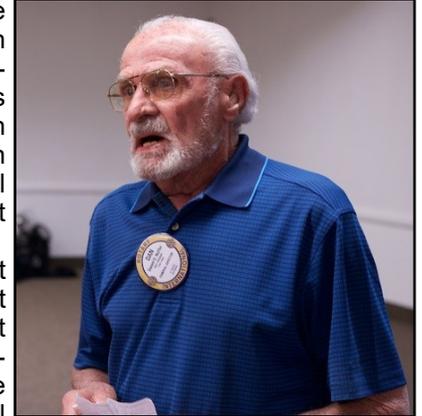
## Whining and Fining



Dan Nuffer was asked by the Prez when Central Union High School was founded. Dan entertained us with the fact that his mother rode a horse to high school back then. Finally, Dan told the Prez that the high school was founded in 1908 and that was correct!

Ed Snively was asked about the El Centro Spartans oldest rival. Ed correctly answered that the oldest rival was Brawley Union High School and that the rivalry included the famous Bell Game. The rivalry began in 1921 (oldest high school rivalry in the West). We think Ed paid \$100.00 to his Paul Harris for any possible mistatements.

The honorable Derek Quan was asked about the last Division I Scholarship received by a football player in the Valley. The Prez said it was Paul Magana. Todd Evangelist (the oracle of sports facts in the Imperial Valley) was asked and he said both Derek



and Edgard were wrong. As a result the Prez fined Derek and himself each \$25.00.

## Announcements

Kris Becker (our President Elect) again left form letters (on each table) in order that each of the members can select the committees on which they want to serve next year and the amount they want to pledge to the Club.



Kris and Frank Miranda pointed out that the Highway Cleanup was held this past Saturday and was very successful. They brought the Prez some really neat stuff that included golf balls, an ID of some sort, and other ugly looking

stuff.



### "Rotary Serving Humanity"

President-elect John Germ announces his 2016-2017 theme.

"I believe everyone recognizes the opportunity to serve Rotary for what it truly is: not a small opportunity, but a great one; an opportunity of a lifetime to change the world for the better, forever through Rotary's service to humanity." -- RIPE John Germ