

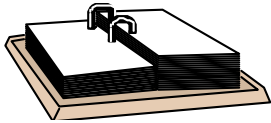
The Strand

The Newsletter of PRLS

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PRLS Calendar



- July 15 – Basic PRLS, Santa Maria Inn.
- July 22 – Master PRLS 1, Basic Public Speaking, Santa Maria Inn
- August 5 – Master PRLS 2, Advanced Public Speaking, Santa Maria Inn
- October 3 – Master PRLS 3, North
- October 7 – Master PRLS 4, North



The Way PRLS Works

By David Migoeki (Camarillo)
PRLS Registrar

Editor's note: What follows is the answer to a question asked of the former PRLS registrar. It's as good a summary of how the PRLS program works as we've seen recently.

The article first appeared in the April edition of the District Bulletin. We've been asked to reprint it here, where all the PRLS graduates can read it.

Concerning your question about PRLS classes, and specifically why you don't see another MPRLS1 or MPRLS2 class listed on the current schedule for the foreseeable

future, here's my pat answer for these kinds of questions:

- The PRLS calendar year parallels that of Rotary -- July to June
- The PRLS calendar for 2005-6 was finalized last summer
- The entire PRLS curriculum is being offered this year in three locations: North County [Cambria], CLU and Bakersfield
- Each PRLS course [Basic and MPRLS1-5] is offered once per location this year:
 - Cambria/PRLS went first, starting last July [shortly after our current Rotary year began] and finishing before Christmas;
 - Then CLU in Thousand Oaks started and will finish next month;
 - Bakersfield was scheduled for a post-holiday start -- running through June . . . the last month of our Rotary calendar year.
- Mounting the annual PRLS program sort is of like painting the Golden Gate Bridge: by the time the painters get to the other end, it's time to start over at the beginning; in other words, for PRLS staff such as me, the

PRLS classes haven't stopped since they began in July 2005. And no sooner do we finish with MPRLS5 in Bakersfield come June before we'll start all over again with Basic PRLS somewhere.

• As you probably know, all PRLS staff and administration are volunteers;

- I AVERAGE 100 correspondences/phone calls/faxes per PRLS class -- and there are twenty PRLS classes; add to that my out-of-pocket costs for phone, office supplies, mileage, speaking at Rotary Club meetings, etc. and it all adds up;

- Before the dust dries on a PRLS class, Stewart Fries is busy rounding up instructors for the next one -- as many as five instructors for a Basic class;

- Instructors like Steve Goad travel between China Lake, CLU, Pt. Mugu, Cambria and back to Bakersfield to teach PRLS classes, month after month -- all year;

- Coordinators such as **Mary Howard** and **Bonnie Cameron** and their teams donate half a weekend six times a year to mount the PRLS classes in their respective areas.

In other words, 'just' to offer the PRLS cycle 'only' once a year in three locations is a huge undertaking. Think back to what you and I went through last month and this in order to Re-mount a Basic class in Bakersfield last weekend -- I stole a LOT of time away from work and play to mount that one; you must have done the same.

Now add up the number of Basic PRLS classes already offered in the District during the first eight months of this year [3], plus Master PRLS classes [10]; factor in the number of PRLS classes remaining [7] during the next four months; and you'll probably marvel as I do that we are able to offer as many classes as we do, rather than how few . . . if you get my drift.

Bottom-line: the next MPRLS1 and MPRLS2 classes to be offered, as far as I know, will be sometime early next fall. But right now I don't even have time to think that far ahead. I'm too busy preparing for PRLS classes almost one every other week-end during the next four months.

The SUB-bottom line to all this [it seems to me] is this: when a PRLS class is offered, say in Bakersfield, Rotarians nearby are being given a special and rare opportunity; not to avail themselves of it merely because 'it isn't convenient' or because they 'have other plans' puts the onus right where it belongs: on them; in effect it's like they are saying to us: "I was busy when you came to town last time; do it again at a

more convenient [for ME] time."

The PRLS team is making tremendous personal and professional sacrifices, leaving their own homes, jobs and families in order to arrange and to teach PRLS classes on the road and closer-to-home for our district Rotarians -- *twenty weekends a year*; these classes are publicized months and months in advance -- and I constantly am looking for other ways to enhance promotion of them. If Rotarians choose to be 'elsewhere' when this show comes to town, in effect they are choosing to wait until next year. OR to travel to another venue where it is being offered. Those are their choices.

[Facetiously I add that, if we were to raise the cost of these classes to something closer to their actual worth -- say \$1,000 apiece -- we then could pay the PRLS team for their time and effort. In which case we could offer these classes wherever and whenever the market for them dictated at that price.]

I hope this answers your question and that it helps. Thanks for your note.



The Surprise of Rotary

After we join Rotary, we find out that the organization has purposes for our lives. We didn't know about them before. Most of us already had "purposes for our lives"—families, jobs, hobbies, activities with good friends. Most of us didn't sign on in Rotary so that people we didn't then know could determine

some of our future thoughts and actions, much less become part of their goals—their goals! Some weenie even had the gall to pontificate that by joining we'd be able to "give back to the community some of what the community has already given to us." Right! And we didn't even blink when they said it! We thought, "Oh, goodie, goodie! Now I get to sell beer at the rodeo, pick up trash along the highway, help some sniffer learn to read, preach to my fellow citizens about 'ethics.'" Everyone remembers having thoughts like that, right?

Well, no. The thoughts most of us had when we joined included equal parts of fear, surprise, suspicion and regret that we ever opened our yaps to agree to anything. Rotary had gulled us, and we weren't even full-fledged members yet! "Hey!" we thought, "Is anyone looking out for me?" "How about *my* best interests? Does anyone care what they might be?—probably not, as most of our clubs are structured.

Those of us who have been around for a day or two think to ourselves, "We don't care what the newbies think or what skills they might have. Let's get them to be true Rotarians first. Let the club's mentor program take care of them. The new member is only concerned about his/her personal well being, while our purpose is much more extensive, and therefore much more valuable and worthy—we're concerned with the best interests of the World!" Right!

New members are perplexed; they need reassurance that never comes. They're asked to commit to the organization, but see no evidence of the organization's commitment to them, as people. "Rotary has a purpose just for me!" they say. "Wow! I wonder what it can be!"

I'll tell you what it is. Rotary exposes us to the possibilities of good deeds, which are waiting out there for us to discover. Through Rotary, we can all know true fellowship and charity. In our self-contained school district we can get new members to believe. "As they learn, they'll believe," we say.

As they believe, their spirit will move them on to cut through to good deeds like a hot knife cuts through butter. Rotary is at work in our lives Don't doubt it for a second. That's the surprise.

New Master PRLS Grads

Following a session hosted by Eastern PRLS Coordinator Mark Hahs (Bakersfield West) on June 3rd, the following received their Master PRLS graduates pins:
 Bakersfield East – Fernando Aguirre;
 Bakersfield South – John Bacon;
 Frazier Park – Lori Murphy, Mitch Wood
 Moorpark – Bruce Thomas
 Paso Robles Sunrise – Cristina Sirotta;
 Santa Barbara Sunrise – David Velarde.

Vandenberg Village – Judilee Smith
 Ventura East – Joe Amandoli;

New Basic PRLS Grads

In a session hosted by Heather Frankle at Simi Valley Assisted Day Care Center on April 29, 23 new PRLS graduates were added to the 1,100 (or so) Rotarians, spouses, Honorary Members, Interactors, Rotaracters, Ambassadorial Scholars, children and just plain interested people who have already completed the course.

Teaching that day were Steve Goad (China Lake), Rodney Skidmore (Simi Sunrise), Doug Hoffman (San Luis Obispo Daybreak), PRLS Director Stewart Fries (Solvang) and PDG Jock MacKenzie (Westlake Village).

Graduating were:

Moorpark

Brian Angel, Richard Diaz, Ben Gilbert, Tom Henry, Melody Higginbotham, Walt Johnson, Diane Regan, Doug Ridley, Sarah Rolfe, Ellen Smith.

Simi Sunrise

Heather Frankle, Arvid Kreuger, Stephen Marks, Tracy Noonan, Jack Scroggins, Cesar Zambrano and Honorary Member Robin Weber.

Simi Valley

Leanne Alva, Kolina MacRury, Terry Marvin, Coleen McIntyre
Todos Santos (Mexico)
 Maureen Ryan

More New Grads

In another Basic PRLS class conducted on May 12 in Oxnard in conjunction with the District Assembly (West), the following graduated:

Bakersfield South

Bill Slocumb, Lauri Slocumb, Allen Thompson, Michael Thompson

Buellton

Julie Jones

Camarillo

Scott Friedman, Jerry Reed, Robert Taylor

Goleta

William Graves, Jerry Kutchev, Christina Vaja

Goleta Noontime

Luke Brothers

Moorpark

Reuben Brentwood

Newbury Park

Helen Howlett, Molly Rockey

Ojai West

Paul Blatz, Jack McClenahan

San Luis Obispo de Tolosa

Mark Furia

Santa Barbara North

Joe Lanza

Santa Paula

Peter Wright

Ventura

Mike Anderson

Ventura Marina

Patrick Holmes

Ventura South

Lisan Campbell, Bonaventura Wakam

Westlake Village Sunrise

Romesh Gulranani, Ross Hashemi, Pamela Kelty, Frank Huybrechts, Linda Huybrechts, Doug Wolfley

Why Stay in Rotary?

Ed note: This is the first in a series of short notes trying to explain why we keep our personal ties to Rotary.

Left to our own devices, we're sometimes de-energized by crummy programs, inedible food and the inane comments of fellow members who should know better than to share their tired thoughts out loud. Or at least that's the way it seems at the time.

After joining and after showing up at an event or two, newer members are no longer strangers to those who have been around for awhile, but are instead part of their very own extended family, citizens of the much larger world of service, and part of the Rotary household. Something happens, you see, when Rotarians gather together, that doesn't happen otherwise.

There might even be something sinister at work here—Rotary's intent is to make public the manifold wisdom of Rotary's leaders through club or district bulletins. That thought will surely come as a shock to those bulletin editors just trying to get through the year without missing even one of the necessary deadlines.

Well, just how in the world does anyone think that a Rotary family is an essential entity for true Rotarians? What happens? I thought of five possibilities. This is the first.

First, I think that Rotary helps us focus on service to others. We all have other things that demand our time, focus and

interest. Mostly, we're all so busy we tend to respond only to things that are urgent, not necessarily to things that are merely important. We even have to remind ourselves from time to time about what's important in our lives. Rotary invites us to make a difference, and then helps us to define our personal accountability. We just aren't capable of making those sorts of decisions by ourselves. That's the way it is.

Fund-Raising Words to Remember

Some weekends, most members of a club are going to be up and about early, helping with the various tasks connected with club fund-raisers – Street Fairs, Cajun Festivals, Chili Cook offs. They're going to see a lot of new people stumbling around between the ubiquitous booths. Odds are, at least one of them will ask, "What's Rotary?"

"Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons, united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build good will and peace in the world." Those 32 words answer the question. And, if you've shared your efforts and your money annually, you can share with pride your ownership of these high ideals and dreams for a better world.

"What do I tell my friends?" Tell your friends that, along with over one million other

leaders living in 182 countries and territories around the world, you have found a meaningful way to make a better world.

Most of us joined to be of service. Does that mean money? Well, yes. Does it mean *only* money? Of course it doesn't. Does it mean lending yourself out to do, to participate, to contribute, to give honest effort? You bet it does!

You know what *really* answers the question? Tell that person who we are: We're the observant, thinking, caring, bottomless pit; we step up when it's necessary; we have some fun along the way. "Look around you! This event is a living example of all that!"

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