



The Sou'wester

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FEBRUARY 20, 2009

JACK ALDERSON HONORED FOR HIS DEDICATION TO PROJECT SHAD VETERANS

Past President Greg Dale, looking quite dapper in his charcoal suit, filled in for



President John today as eye candy (according to Greg) for Congressman Thompson's benefit.

Did anyone else think it was interesting that the Red Lion chose the entrée for a Congressional visit to be..... pork, and plenty of it? It was a good lunch, though, and none of the slices seemed to be earmarked.



Ed Nilsen led off with the pledge, followed by a nice invocation by

Bob Burchit. Scott Pesch introduced 3 visiting Rotarians. Guests were introduced by Erin Mooney, Mark McGowan (who brought our

exchange student), Stu Russell, John Moore, Liz Ennis (who introduced her sister), and John Vandermolen.



Greg urged all members who have not yet done so to please donate blood in the next week or two, and be sure to tell them when you donate that you're donating in the

name of the Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka. We want to make sure we out drain our competing clubs.

Steve Brodhag noted that next Friday starts the golf event. Friday starting at 6:00 will be our regular meeting that week while we test out the course at Redwood Acres. Saturday from 4 till 9 is the tournament itself, and Sunday is kid's day on the course from 10 to 4. PLEASE sell as many tickets as you can, as we need to raise as much as possible for the great causes this event will go for.



Past President Nyle Henderson took a headcount to determine how many members

are planning to attend the 40th anniversary dinner, currently scheduled for March 12 at the Ingomar at \$55.00 per plate (IF we have 100 people in attendance). The date, price, and location may be changed if it doesn't look like we can be sure of having 100 in attendance.

The drawing tickets went to Beth Giraud, who got \$50 toward her PHF, and Troy Vizenor had a shot at the \$213 in the prize pool, but left it all to grow for next week.

Kathy Miller introduced our own Jack Alderson, who talked about Project SHAD. In the 1950's the Federal government felt that while the US was ahead of Russia in space technology, they feared we trailed the Soviets in chemical and biological intelligence and began embarking on chemical testing of our own population in certain parts of the country. The government hired the Smithsonian Institution to study migratory birds in the Pacific as a cover story, and Jack and the rest of his unit spent considerable time ostensibly studying birds. Their fleet involved 5 tugs and a mother ship, and the crew was exposed on countless occasions over extended periods of time to carcinogens and other nasty chemicals unbeknownst to the crew.

The Department of Defense continued to deny the existence of project SHAD and the fact that members of the military were exposed to dangerous chemicals, and continued to insist that they were testing safely and with full knowledge of the military personnel involved. It took many years of effort on Jack's part to change that, and he was finally able to get the DOD to acknowledge that testing was done without any knowledge of the crew and that they did, in fact, use carcinogens and other toxic chemicals in their tests. When Jack enlisted the help of

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 28, 2009

Cap'n John's
Play-A-Round

Set Up and Spon-
sor Cocktail Party
**THIS IS OUR
MEETING**

*John Moore wrote this
week's bulletin. Photos were
provided by Liz Ennis.*

THANK YOU!

UPCOMING:

**CAPTAIN JOHN'S
PLAY -A -ROUND IS
HERE!**

February 27th (set up &
club social), 28th
(fundraiser) 4-9pm and
March 1st (Family Day)
10-4 pm.

Congressman Thompson, Mike was able to finally break through the military logjam to bring the classified operation into the light of day. Since then, Mike helped to enact the Veterans Right to Know Act which now required the DOD to notify all affected military personnel of their exposure to dangerous chemicals during their time of service. The act now gives permanent health care for all SHAD veterans. They are still working to obtain widow's benefits for the widows of those vets who died prematurely due to the exposure.

Congressman Thompson then presented Jack with a Congressional Resolution and citation recognizing and thanking him for all he has done for the veterans involved. We all salute you, Jack!

While the DOD has finally released the information about SHAD, it was certainly done begrudgingly.... They issued the press release on September 13, 2001, so it



never received any attention when it hit the media.

Rick Roberts presented a check in the amount of \$200.00 to the Disabled Americans of America as a tribute to the efforts of Mike Thompson and Jack Alderson, and encouraged club members to add to that donation. It was an excellent meeting, and it was great to see our smiling but gimpy President John Ennis back with us, at least for the



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Sunshine Reports

Don't be shy about sharing news about yourself or other members.

Contact: Jay Sooter

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