



# LASSEN LAVA

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"He Profits Most  
Who Serves Best"



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"Service  
Above Self"

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**Larry Champion, President**

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*Editorial Team: Christine Applegate, Dick Beddoe (alternate), Valerie Lucero, Barbara Miller, Randi Gottlieb, Will Murphy and Scott Sherman (alternate)*

### **Program Personnel:**

Greeter: Shelley Blunkall  
Invocation: Dick Beddoe  
Pledge: Rod Wright  
Introductions: Don King

### **Visiting Rotarians:**

None

### **Guests of Rotarians:**

Dan Emry, Tehama County Chief Probation Officer – guest of Dave Nichols

Francois, our French Exchange Student – guest of his host, Joe Dominick

### **Member Birthdays:**

Dick Culp, March 30, 74 Years

### **Partner Birthdays:**

Lenore Howell, April 1

### **Wedding Anniversaries:**

Bill & Billie Cornelius, March 31, 38 Years  
Dick & Geneva Culp, March 29, 53 Years  
Diane & Ray Lieberenz, April 2, 40 Years

### **Rotary Anniversaries:**

Charlie Milford, April 1, 50 Years

### **Announcements:**

Thank you from President Larry to:

1. **Rolland Papendick** for coordinating the UC Davis Student Weekend
2. **Bill Cornelius** for coordinating the Rodeo Round-Up Activities
3. **John Gumm** for coordinating the Cone Kimball Plaza Golf Tournament planned for June, and many other fundraising activities for that project.
4. **Ron Judson** for coordinating the Chili Cook-Off coming up April 15<sup>th</sup> – sign ups needed for volunteers for that event.
5. **Peter Harvey** and **Catherine Gutierrez** for Challenge fundraising for the CAD machine at St. Elizabeth's Hospital Imaging Center – the women are still outpacing the men in donations and winning the challenge even though they are far outnumbered in the club. There was some scuttlebutt about the men never receiving letters asking for donations, but to date, the women are still ahead!

### **Recognitions:**

1. **Tonda Townsend** was recognized \$40 for taking a spring break trip with her grandchildren to Southern CA and to Lake Tahoe where she stayed in a luxury suite with a "butler"!
2. **Bud Tysinger's** stepdaughter is pregnant which will make him a grandfather soon – for that impending birth, he anted up \$100.
3. **Bob Dunbar** shared \$50 with the club for his Ititarod trip to Alaska this year. He hiked, visited family, took photos, and cheered on his guy in the race, who finished 23<sup>rd</sup>, but still holds the record for longest participation in the event every year.
4. **Del Skillman** reminded everyone that it was his two granddaughters Madison and Mariah, who recently won the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards (respectively) in the Pee Wee Division competition for the Fiddler's. He offered a \$20 donation for such a great newspaper photo honoring their achievement.

**Rolland** introduced the host families for the UC Davis students,

shared what activities had taken place over the last few days and announced that **Tommy Amundson** is taking over this event starting next year. Each host family introduced their host student(s) to the group. Our students this year were:

- Bilanda Barrios from Mexico, PhD candidate in Chemistry, hosted by the Amundsons.
- Avneet Kaur Ghai, from India, Undergrad Biomedical major and Sneha Dahal from India, Undergrad viticulture major – hosted by the Papendick family.
- "Jenny" Lim and Mun Hua Tan of Malaysia, both undergraduate biotechnology majors – hosted by JoAnn Perkins.
- Susma Iyengar of India, PhD in Genetics candidate – hosted by the McIvers.
- Lingxiu Jiang, Ph.D. candidate in computers and his wife, Xiojing Wu of China were hosted by the Kelleys.
- Marta Perez-Rebugent of Spain studying English as an undergrad, and PinPorn Ponpesh of Thailand a PhD. Candidate in Biological Engineering, were hosted by Dave Hutchison and his wife.
- Yu Hou, PhD. Candidate in Chemistry and his wife Liang Yang, PhD candidate in medical sciences were hosted by the Harveys.

### **Program Notes:**

"Strike at Half Dome"

Introduced by **Bob Dunbar**, our speaker was **Bob Madgic**, Author and former school principal and Rotary member.

Shattered Air is the book our speaker authored about a tragic outcome that took place on Saturday, July 25, 1985 to a group of young rock climbers who scaled Half Dome after disregarding warnings of storms and lightning in the area that made that climb too dangerous. There are only rarely deaths from lightning, but there had already been one person killed by lightning that day of the climb. The speaker showed a variety of fantastic photos of Yosemite and Half Dome, and talked about how artists have come to paint and photograph the park since the 1860's. In 1875, the first person climbed up Half Dome.

During storms, lightning hits Half Dome and other tall peaks all the time. Rock doesn't absorb lightning at all – it just bounces off the rock and can kill people sheltering in caves or otherwise "ungrounded" by being on the rock – the body absorbs the electricity and it triggers heart attacks, convulsions, and other damage to the body. The day in 1985, these hikers pushed through regardless of the warnings and two of them died, and two others were seriously injured. Other hikers, who were trained EMT's, in the area came to their aid after the lightning strikes and kept the two injured men alive until the park service could send a helicopter to land on Half Dome and pick them up. It took 3 dangerous helicopter flights that had to land on Half Dome in the moonlight after the storms had cleared to get the injured and the dead down off the mountain to a Modesto Hospital.

One of the EMT's who aided the hikers said that irresponsible hikers like this group put not only themselves, but rescuers at risk. In interviewing the surviving members of the group who foolishly hiked up Half Dome in a thunderstorm and lightning, some said they did it because they were following the group leader, and others said they did it to prove that they could. Some of the group went back the following year to complete the trip where they lost their friends a year earlier.

The survivors, when interviewed, said they are still dealing with their injuries and most did not comment on lessons learned. But one survivor talked about thinking for yourself and not following a leader if you don't think they are making wise decisions. This is the lesson our speaker wants young people, and all hikers, to remember.

### **Drawing:**

Two autographed books by our speaker/author were awarded to Francois and to Tony Kelley.

### **ABSENTEES**

Allen, Brainerd, Brown, Elloway, Glenn, Gottlieb, Hake, Jordan, Lucero, Martin, B. Miller, Moisey, Patidar, Rubright