



# THE ROTO NEWS



VOLUME 56, ISSUE 35

APRIL 10, 2009

## This Week's Program: Kern County Sheriff's Air Support Unit

Today's speaker was Sergeant Tim Melanson with the Kern County Sheriff's Department Air Support Unit. In 1972 the Kern County Sheriff's Department created its first Air Support Unit with the purchase of a brand new Bell 47 helicopter. The Sheriff's helicopter flew patrol until 1975. In 1975 it crashed while patrolling the Kern River Canyon when it struck electric aerial wires inside the mouth of the canyon. The helicopter was destroyed, but thankfully both crewmembers survived.

Following the destruction of the Bell 47 the department purchased a Hughes 500C. This helicopter flew until 1978 when the Air Unit was deactivated due to the lack of funding. In 1984 the Air Unit was reinstated. A Bell 206B, this type known as the Jet Ranger, was leased and used until 1987 when the department purchased two new MD 500E helicopters equipped with Spectrolab SX-16 searchlights. The new MD 500E helicopters, upgraded and enhanced versions of the Hughes 500C, are still being flown today. Due to meticulous maintenance, they still look and operate as new.

In 1987 the Sheriff's Department seized a Cessna Turbo Centurion T-210N fixed wing airplane through the asset forfeiture process during a narcotics investigation. It is still in use today for investigative operations and administrative transport.

In 1997 the department obtained two Bell OH-58A+ helicopters from the United States Department of Defense, through the California Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning. They were obtained at no cost to the County of Kern.

In 2001 the department received a state grant from the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning to purchase a brand new Cessna Turbo Stationair T-206H fixed wing aircraft.

In 2007, Sheriff Youngblood saw the need for a larger helicopter with more power

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**Sargent Tim Melanson  
with The Kern County  
Sheriff's Department Air  
Support Unit**

### OFFICERS

President: Susan Leedy

Secretary: Michele Brown

Treasurer: Steve Gibbs

Sgt. at Arms: Hank Hinse

Board Advisor: George Palmer

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ansolabehere

Membership: Jean Watanabe

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### Upcoming Events at Bakersfield East Rotary Club:

4.17 - Bakersfield Homeless Shelter - Don Clark

4.18 & 25 Senior Project - see Rena Kay Schrader

4.24 - Festa di Pasta - Bakersfield Art Museum (regular meeting **DARK**)

4.25 - District Assembly - CSUB

5.15 - Open House Ronald McDonald House

5.15 - Frazier Park's 4-way test - Hodel's \$35.00/pp See President Susan for details

**Club Assignments for April 17, 2009**

**Flag Salute:** Fernando Aguirre  
**Visiting Rotarians:** Steve Gibbs  
**Invocation:** Lloyd Plank  
**Reception Table:** Kelly Giblin, Gary Stanfill  
**Greeters:** Dick Giles, Doug Amstutz, Joe Hughes

**Supper Club:**

**Loma Linda**  
**(across from Bakersfield College)**  
**6 p.m.**  
**Call Dave Haynes 393-7204 to RSVP**  
**It's considered a make-up!!**

**The Rotarian Magazine Assignments for April:**

**President's Message: Mark Ramsey**

**p30- Jarrod McNaughton**

**P 42 - Joe Hughes**

**p 48 - Christine Randall**



**FESTA di PASTA**

**BAKERSFIELD ART MUSEUM**

**APRIL 24, 2009**

**6-10 p.m.**

**MUSIC, FOOD by TL MAXWELL'S, SILENT AUCTION, RAFFLE FOR TRAVEL PACKAGE WORTH \$10,000 (see Robt Vining for tickets)**

**DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY TO THE SOUNDS OF The Token Okies**

(from page one)

and lift capabilities than the four smaller helicopters currently in the unit's inventory.

Bell's Huey II was chosen to fill the medium lift roll. This helicopter allows more personnel to be transported at one time and is equipped with a Goodrich external hoist used for rescue operations. It is also equipped with a "fast-rope" system which allows for a quick insertion of the sheriff's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

The department has in-house training that is capable of training a sheriff officer all the way from patrol car to pilot.



Planting roses for the Senior Project. Contact Rena Kay Shrader. This project continues Saturday April 18 and 25

**April Birthdays**

**Johnson Jung 6th, Rena Kay Shrader/Robert Tidwell 8th**

**Dan Urban 16th, Terry Maxwell 23rd**

*This week's Business:*

President Susan Leedy rang the bell promptly at 12:30 pm at the Sheriffs' aircraft hanger on Norris Road. Michele Brown led the invocation, Sandra Larson led the flag salute, George Palmer and Jarrod McNaughton led us in "God Bless America".

Susan thanked the greeters - Jarrod McNaughton and Rachelle Towery.

There were no visiting Rotarians. Guests today were William Trivitt, Skyler Hobson, Meyer Hobson, and Blake Brown.

Birthdays: Johnson Jung on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Rena Schrader and Robert Tidwell on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Patty Plank on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Dave Nielson on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Lucy Aguirre on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Club Anniversaries – Sandra Larson on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dave Haynes announced that supper club this week would be at Loma Linda (across from Bakersfield College) at 6 pm on Wednesday.

Festa di Pasta. Dinner will be catered by Maxwells, entertainment provided by Robert Tidwell's band. They are looking for advertising and silent auction items. Contact Rena Kay Schrader or Michele Brown.

Next Weeks Speaker – Don Clark with the Bakersfield Rescue Mission

**Area Meetings**

**MONDAY**

- Bakersfield South**-noon  
Petroleum Club
- Wasco**- noon  
Veteran's Hall on Poplar Ave.

**TUESDAY**

- Bakersfield North**- noon  
Petroleum Club
- Inyokern**- 6 p.m.  
Bernardino's

**WEDNESDAY**

- Bakersfield West**-noon  
Stockdale Country Club
- China Lake**-noon  
Heritage Inn
- Shafter**-6:30 a.m.  
Shafter Vet's Hall

**Bakersfield Breakfast**-  
6:45 am

- Petroleum Club
- Taft**- noon  
Jo's Restaurant

**THURSDAY**

- Frazier Park**- 5:30 PM  
Los Pinos Restaurant
- Bakersfield Dntwn**-noon  
Bakersfield Art Museum
- Tehachapi**- noon  
Kelcy's Restaurant
- Delano**-noon  
Kong's Dynasty
- Kern River Valley** - 6 pm  
Ewings

**FRIDAY**

- Bakersfield East** - noon  
EB Veteran's Hall



Bill Trivitt and a crew member with the Bell Huey II.



Friday (Good Friday to boot), friendship, food, pleasant spring weather, helicopter hanger, and Rotary.....priceless!!!



ROTARY CLUB OF  
BAKERSFIELD EAST

P.O. Box 2383  
Bakersfield, CA 93303

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.BAKERSFIELDEASTROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.BAKERSFIELDEASTROTARY.ORG)

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**“The All great things are simple and many can be expressed  
in single words: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.”**

*Sir Winston Churchill*