



THE ROTO NEWS



VOLUME 55, ISSUE 44

MAY 16, 2008

BERC CELEBRATES KERN COUNTY'S BEST

TEACHER OF THE YEAR – STEVE GARCIA

George Palmer explained that this year the Teacher of the Year Committee decided that one of our newer members, **John Fanucchi**, who is the President of Garces Memorial High School, should choose our Teacher of the Year Honoree. **John** met with Principal Robert Garcia and Vice-Principal of Academic Affairs Kathleen Bears. When they reviewed the criteria for the award – longevity of service to the school, commitment to the school's mission, and commitment to the students and their families – Steve Garcia became an obvious choice. Mr. Garcia is a 1985 Garces graduate, though he said he has been involved in activities at Garces since his older brother attended Garces in the 1970's. He teaches mathematics, and he has been the Chair of the Math Department for the past six years. He has also coached girls softball and participated in the WASC Accreditation process.

Mr. Garcia graciously accepted his award. He smiled when he explained that he deals with teenagers every day, and they are not so forthcoming with their appreciation – especially when he is asking them to turn in the homework he assigned for the weekend. He said if he could ask us anything, he would ask us to tell our children to go into their teacher Monday morning and tell the teacher how much they appreciate the teacher's hard work. [Note: Steve Garcia is a favorite of the children of this author.]

Mr. Garcia was presented with a handsome wooden commemorative and a check for \$475.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR – DAVID KAUS

David Haynes presented the firefighter of the Year award to Kern County Fire Department Engineer David Kaus in recognition of his quick thinking under pressure and his bravery in rescuing a man from a burning house. When David Kaus and Captain Tony Blumer responded with Engine 51 to a structure fire, the house was 30% ablaze. One attempt to rescue a man inside the home had failed, before David Kaus ran into the blazing, smoky building and pulled the man out of the house.

With his proud family in the audience, wife Elizabeth and children Michael and Heather, David Kaus humbly accepted the award, explaining that he only did what he had been trained to do. He said they are sometimes called upon to pull people out of burning buildings, and often it is too late to save the victims. It was awfully nice to be able to pull a live man out of this building. (con't page 2)



Teacher of the Year Steve Garcia with President Ron, John Fanucchi, and George Palmer

OFFICERS

President: Ron Biglin

Secretary: Christine Randall

Treasurer: Bob Parker

Sgt. at Arms: Mike Cooper

Board Advisor: Kelly Giblin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Administration: Dave Bass

Membership: Jean Watanabe

Vocational Service: Sandra

Larson

New Generations: Steve Gibbs

Outreach: Carole Cohen

International Service: Michele Brown

Past President: Vernon Varner

President Elect: Susan Leedy

President '09-'10: Tom Burch

Upcoming Events at Bakersfield East Rotary Club:

May 23 - Kevin Mc Carthy

May 30 - Forest Hagood Adult child/elderly parent communication

June 6 - Rotary Park Dedication

June 27 - Demotion

Worker Bees for 05.24.08

Flag Salute: Bob Parker
Visiting Rotarians: Fernando Aguirre
Invocation: Karen McKinzie
Reception Table: Scott Begin, Robert Tidwell
Greeters: Kent Pryor, Mark Ramsey, Quon Louey

Supper Club:
 El Portal
 Brimhall and Calloway
 6 p.m.
 RSVP
 Call Dave Haynes 393-7204

May reading assignments from The Rotarian
Page 54 - Susan Leedy,
page 58 (Polio) Michelle Brown, page 31-53 Mike Griffin

(from page one)

David Kaus was presented with a plaque, and a \$500 donation to the American Cancer Society will be made in his name.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – RAVI PATEL, M.D.

Larry Moxley called upon Charter Member **Cy Wade** to help present the Citizen of the Year Award to Ravi Patel, M.D. Dr. Patel is the founder and visionary behind the Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center (CBCC), which has provided cutting edge cancer treatment for people in Bakersfield. The 220 clinical, technical, and support staff, and the 15 dedicated physicians at CBCC provide a wide array of services, ordinarily found only in an academic setting. And, for the past 15 years, Dr. Patel has treated **Larry Moxley's** mother-in-law, **Jane**, or as **Larry** put it, "Dr. Patel has kept her alive the last 15 years."

Cy Wade said it was a great honor and a privilege to present the Citizen of the Year Award to Dr. Ravi Patel, for exemplifying service above self as a citizen of Kern County.

Dr. Patel was also quite humble in his acceptance of this honor. He explained there are a lot of Dr. Patel's in Bakersfield, and people often get them mixed up.

He wondered if that had happened, and if so, **Larry & Susan Moxley** should be heavily fined. Seriously, Dr. Patel thanked the Club for the award. He said one of the benefits of practicing medicine in Bakersfield is meeting the many fine people here. He is proud to be a member of our community, where people do so much for others. Dr. Patel said it is no wonder that the Bakersfield Relay For Life raises the second highest amount of funds for cancer research as any Relay for Life in the nation.



Firefighter of the Year David Kaus with President Ron and Dave Haynes



Citizen of the Year Dr. Ravi Patel with President Ron, Cy Wade and Larry Moxley

Still Searching for Pictures from the FUN filled weekend with the RVers.
 Send them for the rest of us to see!!

May Birthdays	
Mark Ramsey	May 1st
Kent Pryor	May 2nd
Melina Westphal	May 4th
Karen McKinzie	May 13th
Mike Burger	May 17th
Mark Nelson	May 18th
Jarrold	
McNaughton	May 30th
Scott Begin	May 30th

This week in Business:

Visiting Rotarians: Mike Chertok, Rotary Club of Bakersfield, Cecil Martin, Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary Club

Guests: **Keith Bishop** was introduced by **Jack Spencer**, Kern County Fire Department Battalion Chief John Sillman, Kern County Fire Department Captain Tony Blumer and his wife Bettina, 2008 Fire Fighter of the Year, David Kaus, and his family, wife Elizabeth Kaus, and children Michael Kaus, and Heather Kaus, 2008 Teacher of the Year Steve Garcia, 2008 Citizen of the Year Ravi Patel, M.D.

Fines

Kay Schrader tried to schmooze her way out of a \$25. fine for not greeting people as they arrived for the Gin Fizz breakfast last week, by giving **President Ron** a t-shirt. **Ron** explained he has only six weeks left, so he needs to be sure to levy all his fines by the end of his term.

Mike Burger and **David Coffey** are stars of a Bakersfield Life Magazine photo spread, and they were not wearing their Rotary pins! **Mike** quickly stood up and took responsibility for this grievous error. **David**, on the other hand, tried to persuade **President Ron** that he has already paid his share of fines. Unconvinced, **Ron** fine **Mike** \$50 and **David** \$75. Throwing caution to the wind, **David** upped his own fine to \$100.

Doug Amstutz and **Frank Colatruglio** were called on the carpet for arriving late as greeters. **Doug** called **President Ron's** attention to the rule established when **Doug** was president, that there would be three greeters – an early greeter, a middle greeter, and a late greeter. Today **Doug** arrived perfectly on time for his role as the middle greeter. **Frank Colatruglio** arrived on time to perform as the later greeter. **Ron** was unconvinced, explaining that his board did away with the early, middle, and late greeter, so **Doug** will pay a fine of \$15 for being 15 minutes late, and **Frank** will pay \$20 for being 20 minutes late.

Announcements

Bill Trivitt reminded us that Pasta Feast is SATURDAY!!!!

Tom Burch reported on his Rotarian Magazine reading assignment about efforts of the RI President to promote Rotarians into Rotary. Only 18% or one in every five Rotarians sponsors a new member into Rotary.

Area Meetings**MONDAY**

Bakersfield South-noon

Holiday Inn Select

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 Downtown-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



ROTARY CLUB OF
BAKERSFIELD EAST

P.O. Box 2383
Bakersfield, CA 93303

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.BAKERSFIELDEASTROTARY.ORG

"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

Christopher Reeve