



Date of Meeting: October 6, 2022

Day Editor and Publisher: Steve Clark

## Environmental Phoenix: The Klamath River Renewal Project and Free Bridge Monument

The club's first October meeting certainly had a theme: Environmental Restoration. The meeting kicked off with **President Mark** introducing the **M&M Team**, Team 1 Captains **Maggie Redmon** and **Mary Brace**, although today it was just the **M** team as **Maggie Redmon** danced solo onto the dais.



Greeters were **Maggie** herself, **Michael Daquisto**, **Maurice Johannessen**, and special thanks to the lone Keyway representative, **Ryan Burks**. President's Fundraiser was handled by **Leslie Williem**, pledge by **Anna Pownell**, and the invocation by Colin Duffy during which he regaled us with the story of the Elephant and the Rope. **PP Ed Rullman** stepped in for **PP Pat Corey** and introduced visiting Rotarians and Guests, of which there was only one, today's speaker **Dave Meurer**.

Photography was handled by **Tricia Funk**.

**Announcements:** **PP Ed Rullman** let the club know that we are a bit short on

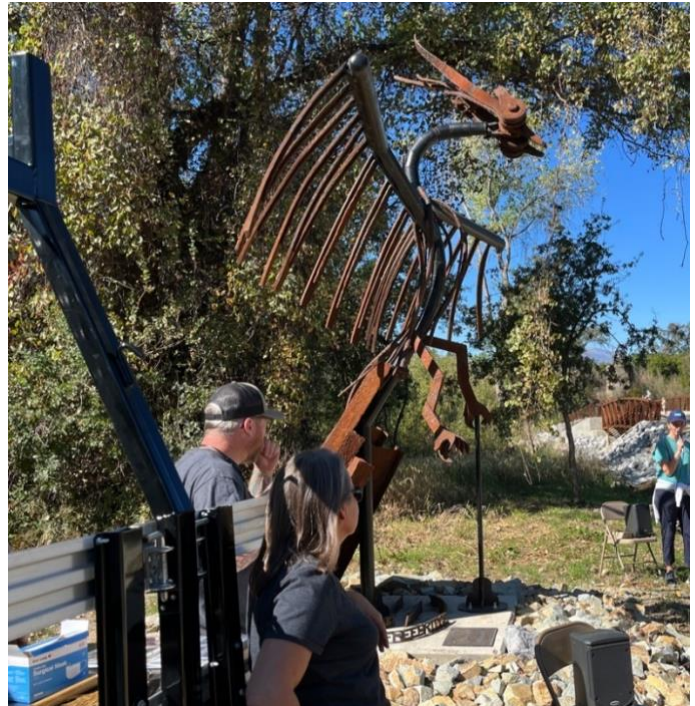
manpower for the first **Redding Haunted House**. If you haven't already please [Sign up here](#). There was a well-attended work party at the Monolith on Saturday Oct 8 to assemble pop-up tents. **Leslie Williem** let the club know there will be another work party on Saturday Oct 15, giving everyone a second opportunity to make a difference in our biggest event of the year. **Leslie** assured us the **Haunted House** won't be gory or bloody, but it will be scary.



**Blood Drive:** Speaking of bloody, **PP Joe Ayer** informed the club that next week is another blood drive. **Joe** says our club has an excellent track record donating the life-saving plasma and he hopes turn-out will be excellent again.

**Elections:** Thursday was election day. Online voting has been previously available and **PP Joe Ayer** warned the members that we are not using Dominion Voting machines; so if you already voted online don't vote again because you will definitely get caught!

**Free Bridge Phoenix:** Long ago stood the **Free Bridge**, just south of where the current Cypress Bridge stands. **Randy Smith** explained how it was demolished and later parts of its iron frame were salvaged from the Sacramento River not far upstream from where our meetings are held. Over the last seven years, through delays and with over 500 donated hours, the **Free Bridge Phoenix** monument pictured here has been fashioned from the salvaged metal. It now stands in the **Nur Pon (Salmon Run) Open Space** to commemorate the incredible restoration of the river basin and resurging salmon run. Nice job, **Randy**.



**Polio Plus:** **Jack Kimble** shared a video of Rotary International **President Jennifer Jones** regarding the success of Polio eradication efforts, with only 26 cases worldwide so far this year. **Polio Plus** has qualified for a 2 to 1 match from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, meaning your \$100 donation is now worth \$300. Let's put the pedal down and knock out Polio once and for all.

**Program:** Next **Todd Jones** introduced **Dave Meurer** of **Resource Environmental Solutions (RES)** to talk about the **Klamath Dam Removal Project**.

### A Snapshot of RES

- RES is the nation's largest ecological restoration firm
- We navigate the regulatory approval process
- We design and construct on a large scale
- We implement biological conservation measures
- We perform long-term monitoring and maintenance to meet performance criteria
- We take responsibility until success criteria are achieved and approved by regulatory agencies

**Dave** began by admitting he originally thought the idea of removing a dam was crazy. Our current and preceding droughts have brought the issue of water storage to the forefront of everyone's attention, but as **Dave** soon learned, the dams being removed do not provide water storage. They were designed and built for one purpose only: hydro-electric power production; and in the process they have created a myriad of environmental and cultural consequences. These dams



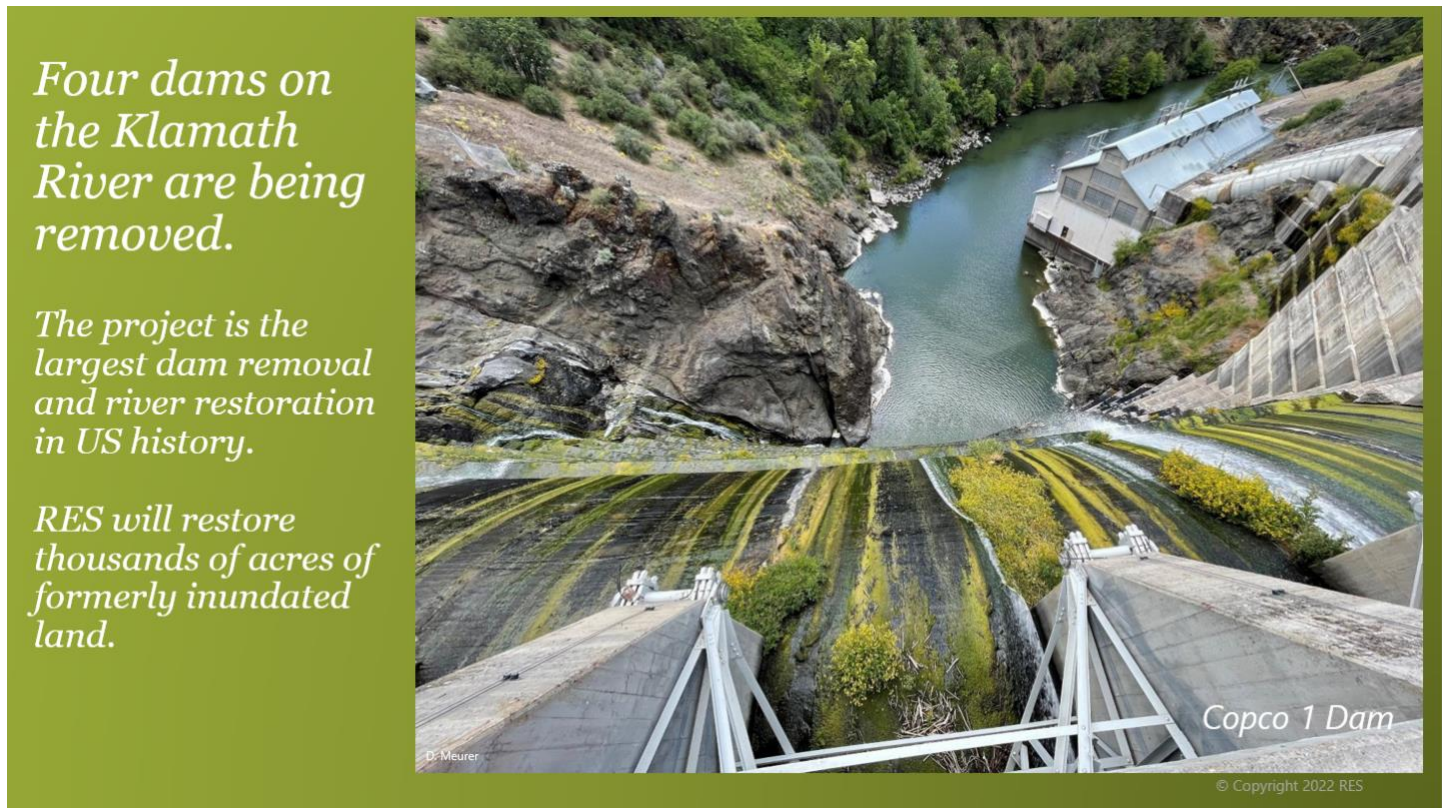
trap nutrient rich water which is then heated by our famously warm weather creating toxic algae blooms. The result is both a poisoning and starvation of the downstream system. Salmon numbers have fallen 98% since the construction of the dams.

**RES** doesn't remove the dam. That is done by **Kiewit**, a Fortune 500 company well known for gigantic construction projects, most notably and recent to us, the **Oroville Dam** reconstruction. After these dams are removed there remains a devastated area, full of mud pits and holes in the ground; sediment berms block tributaries and streams, preventing the few salmon left from spawning. Rather than let nature run her course, **RES** is retained to rebuild the area back to its native and natural condition. Native plants and greens are brought in; waterflow is carefully studied and blockages repaired, reconnecting waterways. Areas with cultural significance to native tribes are addressed and restored.

One of the truly unique features of the agreement with **RES** is the nature of the contract. **RES** is not contracted to perform a list of tasks, but rather to restore the area to its natural state, and that restoration is guaranteed: if halfway through the project a flood wipes out all of the gains made so far, **RES** will start over from scratch and pay all associated costs with no extra charge to the client.

Thanks for the presentation, **Dave**. Fascinating and encouraging.

Restoring our land and waters



# Calendar

October 13	NASA and the Manned Mars Mission: Providing Space Suits
October 20	Military and Diplomacy in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
October 27	PG&E
November 4	TBD

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