



Meeting Date: September 25, 2025

B29 Crash Investigations

Today's Meeting Brought to you by TEAM 3

Team 3
Captains- Andree Blancher and Leslie Williem

Allen Knott
Art Smithson
Dave Dennis
EugenePoch
Fred Hurst
Jason Waybright
Jenn Finnegan
Joe Wyse
Kristi Davis
Kristy Coughlin
Mike Ashby
Randy Smith
Todd Davis



Greeters were **Kristi Davis, Todd Davis** and **Randy Smith**
Keyway Greeters were **David Rickert, Stephanie Bridgett**
Pledge was by **Allen Knott**
Invocation by **Eva Jimenez**
Introduction of guests by **PP Art Smithson**
Introduction of guest speaker was by **Jason Montague**

The meeting was opened by President **Wendy Dickens**

Announcements



Great 8 Chili Cook Off November 9th

- **\$200 entry fee - Rory Greek Chili**
- **Winning clubs proceeds go to the charity of choice**

Veterans Day Celebration - See Greg Balkovek

Thanksgiving Senior Dinner - Service project - See Amelia Ward

- **NEED Baskets!!!!**

If you have a project and you need help, see Brad.

- **Also loop in PE Brian Scarr for Rotaract help!**
- **We want to involve our youth!**
- **Any announcements from the club?**

PP Amelia Ward has a sign up sheet circulating and is looking for 10 volunteers to help with a professional chef yet to be named.

Also added to the Chili Cook Off is the possibility of a salsa category.

Expanding Literacy in Redding

The project's premise is "leave a book, take a book," with the goal of getting books into the hands of kids and adults.

Books for the libraries can be obtained from the children's section of the main library, and the club also holds book drives.

Key partners include Reach Higher Shasta, First 5 Shasta, and the City of Redding, which helps with installation and maintenance.

The club's primary role has been to install the libraries, including purchasing concrete and posts.

The Start of some club literacy efforts - get involved



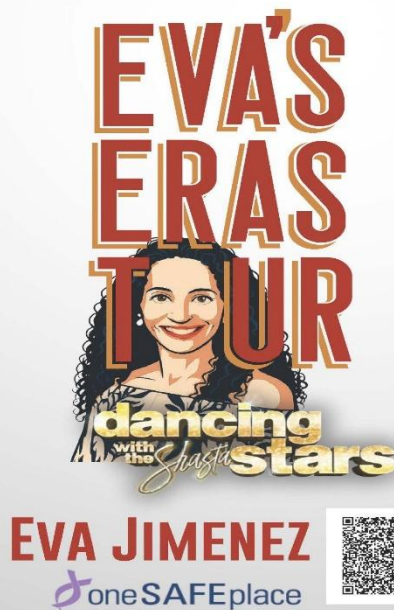
Find out more by
scanning the QR code



A recent grant will provide funding to build more libraries from a waiting list managed by Reach Higher Shasta.

A map of library locations is available on the First 5 Shasta website, which also has a form for requesting a new library.

Fundraising for One Safe Place



"Dancing with the Stars," is being held to support One Safe Place and Paws for the Cause with our own **Eva Jimenez** competing.

Rotarians are encouraged to donate via a QR code on flyers.

A challenge was issued for businesses to donate, with **Matt Mosley** and **Rory Greek** having already participated.

Eva's Eras Tour, will take place on October 18th, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Cascade theater.

Results of last week’s question.



Question of the Week:



- 1.What do you want to know as a club member?
- 2.How do you feel about the Question of the Week?

This week’s question.

Board Updates

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 14th, 2025 at First 5 Shasta's 393 Park Arena Circle.

The Finance Committee will meet on October 1st, 2025 at the same location.



Rotary Club of Redding

BOARD OF DIRECTORS '25-'26



Wendy Dickens
President



Brian Scarr
President-Elect



Mary Brace
Club Secretary



Jennifer R. Finnegan
Club Treasurer



Richard L. Fauss
Immediate Past President



Steven Clark
Club Director, Fundraising



Trisha Funk
Club Director, Administration



Ken Freigher
Club Director, Youth Services



Saeed Hedayatzadeh
Club Director, International Service Chair



Judy Maxwell
Club Director, Membership



Jack Kimple
Club Director, Local Service Projects



Daniel Joseph Adams
Assistant Governor

Meet your Board Steve Clark - Fundraising Director

Oversees: Major Fundraising

Other Club Experience: Directory - Spillway - Scholarships - Community Projects

Why Rotary: To be more involved in community and networking

Meaning of "Service Above Self" Expending time, energy and resources without return on time, energy or resources

First Job Lesson: Salad Bar at Bob's Big Boy - "Showing up each day was harder than I thought"

Karaoke song of choice: Where to Now St. Peter (Elton John)



Recognitions



Rick Hill was recognized for attending a very lavish wedding of a cousin in Lake Cumo Italy and surely the other Rotarian in the photo will be recognized as well.

DATE	UPCOMING PROGRAMS
October 2	Sheriff Mike Johnson and Detective Holdroyd & K9Toni
October 9	Reading Pals
October 16	Shasta Dam is 80!
October 23	Brian Dahle
October 30	Shasta College Bond

Program: B29 Crash Investigation

-Guest speaker Heather Buchanan was introduced by **Jason Montague** as the author of five books, including "When the Letter Stops."

- Her presentation focused on the story of her grandfather, the navigator of a B-29 bomber with the Hewitt crew.



- The plane was shot down over Kyushu, Japan, on July 26th, 1945.

- Nine surviving crew members were taken to the Fukuoka 1 POW camp.

- On August 15, 1945, three hours after the emperor's surrender speech, the camp commandant had the airmen executed.

- Heather began writing the story in January 2021, 76 years after the events.

- Key materials included the contents of her grandfather's

footlocker, which had never been opened. contained uniforms, a bomber jacket, and over letters.

- Additional research involved her grandfather's journals, her grandmother's scrapbook, books like *Flyboys* and *Unbroken*, and B-29 Facebook

- She also interviewed Rufus Choate, a former who was held in the adjacent Fukuoka II camp.

- Heather was contacted by Kiriya Fukoa, a Japanese man who researches B-29 crash sites.



- It
200

groups.

POW

- Mr. Fukoa located the crash site, excavated B-29 parts, and sent them to Heather.
- He found an eyewitness, Yoshima Egashira, who was 13 at the time and had kept a drawing of the crash.
- He uncovered descriptions of how each crew member was captured and stories from two of the executioners.
- He also found a story from villagers who cared for an airman they found, believed to be Heather's grandfather, before turning him in to the police.
- This airman gave the family a pendant with a picture of a woman and a little girl.
- Mr. Fukoa holds an annual memorial ceremony for the Hewitt crew on July 27th.
- Heather's book was officially released during the ceremony in Japan in 2021.
- A news segment about the ceremony prompted another witness, Seiko Baba, to share his family's story of finding the airman with the pendant.
- Heather and her daughter plan to travel to Japan in 2026 to attend the ceremony and meet Mr. Fukoa.





BLACH BEVERAGE LLC

Gary Parkinson
General Manager

1530 Beltline Road
Redding, CA 96003

T: (530) 243-3932
F: (530) 338-3288
C: (530) 510-8903
gary.parkinson@blachbeverage.com

Senator K. Maurice Johannessen (ret)
Secretary, California Dept. of Veterans Affairs (ret)
Commissioner California Parks & Recreation (ret)
CALIFORNIA VETERANS ASSISTANCE GROUP INC.
KMJ Development, LLC



737 Auditorium Drive
Redding, CA 96001

(530) 241-7500
Fax (530) 241-5953

mbjohannessen@gmail.com



Go to ChooseRedding.com for all your meeting and event planning needs!

YOUR AD HERE!



Ed & Brad Rullman

Entertainment - Lunch - Dinner
221-2335 Web Site Click HERE

State Farm®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Jeff Avery, ChFC, CASL, CPCU, CLU
Agent, Lic. #0009479
e-mail: jeff@jeffavery.net

1822 Buenaventura Blvd., Suite 107, Redding, CA 96001
Phn. 530 243 4600 Fax 530 243 3551
Home 530 243 7155



PACIFICSKY

marketing elevated



BRAND
DEVELOPMENT



VIDEO
PRODUCTION



WEB
DEVELOPMENT



GRAPHIC
DESIGN

Bret Christensen Partner | Marketing Director pacificsky.co



WE DESIGN, PRINT & PROMOTE...YOU!

Printing • Design
Direct Mail • Promotional Swag

530.221.0400
2920 Innsbruck Dr. Redding, CA 96003
minutemanpressofredding.com



Joe Ayer, MBA
Executive Director

main 530.223.6034
office 530.226.3064
cell 916.715.1968

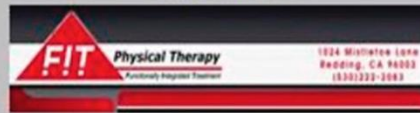
Dignity Health
Connected Living
200 Mercy Oaks Dr
Redding, CA 96003



Mark Rincon, PT

Fit Physical Therapy

222-2083



Cindy Fisher
Executive Vice President
Chief Credit Officer
NMLS# 498689

530.262.6125 Direct • 530.222.1460 Branch
530.222.4501 Fax
cfisher@bankcornerstone.com

192 Hartnell Ave. • Redding, CA 96002
bankcornerstone.com

blink
Optometry

Call or Text
(530) 227-7271

2770 Eureka Way
BlinkOD.com



Dr. Jody Bickford



Dr. Kristi Davis



Dr. Luke Page

Commercial Industrial Steel Buildings

Leslie G. William



ROBERT S. BRYANT

General Contractor Inc.
5255 Eastside Road
Redding, California 96001
Lic. No. 175073
(530) 241-6262
Cell: (530) 949-8245
rsbinc05@earthlink.net

ALLIED STREAM TEAM

Volunteers Are Welcome,
Weekly Work Sessions at Riverview

"Building better tomorrows by restoring the past"

CONTACT: Randall "Creeky" Smith
530-243-1428

