



THE GREENVILLE ROTARIAN

"Service above self"

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Rotarian 'escapes' from Alcatraz Island

'I was a little slow,' says Needham of his 100th crossing

Clad in swim trunks, goggles, and a cap, Dan Needham, member and a past president of the Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise, Calif., jumped into the 60-degree water off Alcatraz Island early on September 28th. When he emerged a little more than an hour later at the South End Rowing Club at the base of San Francisco's Hyde Street, the 39-year-old became the fourth person to swim the roughly mile-and-a-quarter distance 100 times.

"I was a little slow," Needham said of the swim that capped his "escape from Alcatraz" feat, "because the day before, I did my 98th and 99th crossings by swimming from San Francisco to Alcatraz, around the island, and back to shore — and I went for a short bike ride after that."

Located in the middle of San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz became famous as a federal prison (1934 to 1963) housing notorious criminals, among them Al Capone and "Birdman of Alcatraz" Robert Franklin Stroud. The island's remoteness, currents, and cold waters deterred escape, thwarting all but a few of the 36 prisoners who attempted it over the years. Today, the island draws plenty of tourists — and athletes attracted by challenges.

A management and engineering consultant, Needham first swam from Alcatraz in 1984 as part of a triathlon. He didn't repeat until 1996. Picking up the pace when a number of swimmers adopted the goal of 100 Alcatraz crossings, Needham made 42 crossings in 2001 and 34 in 2002. "My fastest crossing was 32 minutes," he said. "I've taken up to 80 minutes when I've misjudged the current."

Bipartisan Congressional support for eradication of polio buoys Rotary

Although the U.S. budget for 2003 faces many hurdles before final approval, Rotary leaders are encouraged by continuing bipartisan Congressional support for polio eradication activities.

In the Senate, which is farthest along in the process, the Labor and Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee has recommended increasing the level of spending for polio eradication through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the next fiscal year by \$4 million, for a total of \$106.4 million. The Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee suggested raising the amount for polio eradication to be spent by the U.S. Agency for International Development by \$2.5 million, for a total of \$30 million.

The full Senate has yet to vote on appropriations bills, and its bills will have to be reconciled with those passed by the House of Representatives. The House subcommittees that parallel those in the Senate have completed work on one of the two bills in question.

"Despite difficult economic times, the U.S. government has really demonstrated global leadership," said Past RI President James L. Lacy, vice-chairman of the Rotary Foundation trustees who serves as vice-chairman of the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force. "The U.S. government has committed more than \$667 million for polio eradication so far."

Rotary's Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force works with legislators in the United States as well as other countries to increase public financial support for polio eradication. As an expression of its appreciation for U.S. support, Rotary in recent years has named 24 senators and representatives Congressional Champions for Polio Eradication.

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Armed only with parachutes and a sense of adventure, a group of Rotarians from England recently took a "giant leap" to raise money for the global fight against polio — by jumping out of a plane.

Hosted and organized by the Rotary Club of Thorpe Bay, England, a group of 29 Rotarians, relatives and friends took pledges and then jumped from a plane flying at the altitude of 12,000 feet. The event, held on August 18th, brought in about \$23,000 for Rotary's polio eradication fundraising campaign, which seeks to raise \$80 million to fill a \$275 million funding gap.

The jump started out as a club project, but Rotarian enthusiasm quickly spread, according to Nigel Gayner, junior vice-president of the Thorpe Bay club. "When our Assistant District Governor Sandra Allen heard about it, she took it to District Governor Michael Dunne, who immediately signed up himself — at 62, the oldest jumper in our crew," Gayner said. "District Governor Michael asked all clubs in District 1240 to participate, either by jumping themselves or sponsoring someone else to jump for them."

After an hour-long class in free-falling at the North London Parachute Centre, the brave group headed into the "Great Blue Yonder" just north of Cambridge to take an exhilarating plunge. Each Rotarian made the dive strapped to an instructor.

"We fell about 5,000 feet in less than a minute, then my instructor pulled the canopy open and I relaxed to enjoy the gentle descent of about one mile, to a soft landing in the airfield," said Carol Brown, a new member of the Rotary Club of Shenfield and Hutton.

Kazakh boy owes life to Rotary project

Sasha Zaitsev, a 9-year-old boy from Kazakhstan, suffered from a rare and serious condition called Fallout's Tetralogy, a congenital disorder involving four heart defects. An orphan, he had no access to medical facilities that could perform the complicated procedure in order to treat his life-threatening condition.

News of Sasha's urgent need reached the District 6560 Gift of Life project, and as a result, the boy underwent lifesaving surgery at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Ind., last month.

Since District 6560 began its Gift of Life project in 1998, more than 25 children have had surgery at Riley and another state-of-the-art facility, the Children's Heart Center at St. Vincent's Children's Hospital of Indiana. The project has saved the lives of needy children with life-threatening heart conditions from Russia, the Philippines, Kuwait, Nigeria, Honduras, China, Pakistan, Zambia, Bosnia, Honduras, and now Kazakhstan.

British Rotarians free-fall for the fight against polio

The Family of Rotary

Trey Pennington has completed requirements for his MBA degree at Winthrop University.

Henry Parr is back at work following surgery at the Mayo Clinic to repair damage to a wrist injury.

Edwin Lathan Jr. has been appointed to the City of Greenville Board of Zoning Appeals.

Lindsay Anne Hendershot, granddaughter of **Tom Hemans**, has entered the honors program at Michigan State University in pediatrics studies in the School of Medicine.

Phil Patrick and **Surendra Jain** have purchased the manufacturing facility of the B.F. Goodrich Company on Tanner Road, to produce adhesives, coatings and specialty chemicals for a variety of industries. **Greg English** helped put the deal together.

Don Kirkland has begun a second three-year term on the Board of Counselors for Erskine College and Seminary.

Candace Sommer and **Fay Towell** have returned from a visit to Vienna, Austria, for "fun and culture."

Allen Grumbine has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America.

John Redmond has been selected as the 2002 Platinum Award winner by the Leadership Greenville Forum.

New Members Proposed _____

John Andrew “Andy” Bolen, Project Manager, Poinsett Homes, under the classification of Residential Construction, sponsored by Manoj and Surendra Jain.

Mark Martin, President, TMG Golf, under the classification of Golf Travel Agency, sponsored by Charles Eldridge and Eddie Lathan.

William A. “Bill” Misiaveg, Vice President, Carolina Holdings Inc., under the classification of Shopping Center Developer, sponsored by Manoj and Surendra Jain.

William T. “Bill” Wylie, CEO-Executive Director, Goodwill Industries, under the classification of Charitable Organizations, sponsored by Walter Phillips and David Karr.

Good questions

Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The 4-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

And don't forget ...

The next Rotary **Health and Happiness Hour** will be hosted by Elizabeth Lyons of the Palmetto Expo Center on Tuesday, November 5th from 5:30-7 p.m. It will be held in the Atrium (behind the escalators) in the Woodside Conference Center located on Eisenhower Drive off South Pleasantburg. There is parking all around the conference center and signs to guide you.

Light appetizers will be served and drinks are on your own. This meeting counts as a make-up. Join us for the fellowship and to enjoy Greenville's beautiful conference facility.

Roto for Charity supporters can now bring their corporate or personal checks for \$50 to the meeting and receive a card good for 10 \$5 plays. We can keep your card on file, if you wish, and punch it each time you play. Your cancelled check will be your receipt for your contribution to our local foundation.

Make a note in your handbooks of the **new fax number** for the Rotary office: 864-235-3328. It is also available on the “Contact Us” page of the club website.

The “big workday” for the **Roper Mountain Holiday Lights** is set for Saturday, October 26th. We will begin at 8:30 and try to be out by 4:00. Pizza will be served for lunch. “Even if you can only help for a portion of the day, come on out,” said Matt Shouse. “Plan on joining us for this important set-up day.”

And especially don't forget to **send your news** to be published in *The Greenville Rotarian* to don@baptistcourier.com.