

# DAWN



ROTARY CLUB  
*of*  
MERCER ISLAND

*Serving our community since 1963*



September 11, 2007

## AN ELECTRIFYING IDEA!

On the sixth anniversary of Nine Eleven, dependency on foreign oil and the price of fuel – not to mention greenhouse gases – loom as ever-present threats. Cars that you can plug in at night and run efficiently all day without fouling the air – now there's an idea whose time is certainly overdue. But, more on that later.

### Birthdays

Mary Kraft----- 9/17  
Ray Saarela----- 9/17

### Rotary Anniversaries

Janie Steward----- 1 year  
Gus Raaum----- 33 years  
Andrew Isaacs-----14 years  
Patricia Darling ----- 3 years  
Orm Sherwood ---- 22 years  
Steve Litzown ----- 2 years

### Upcoming Programs

#### September 18, 2007

Road and Transit Package  
Regional transportation  
Reagan Dunn

#### September 25, 2007

A Naval Officer in Kuwait  
Kyle Naye

### Calendar of Events

Rotary Academy sign-up deadline  
9/29

District Foundation Seminar 9/29

### Remembering 9/11/07

In **Pres Bo's** absence, who better to step back into the pulpit than **John Frazier** – showing his usual flare for keeping the congregation in line. In a moving remembrance of Nine Eleven, **Chuck Wischman** related that early morning when his son awakened him to “Hey, Dad, look at what’s happening on television!” Later that very day, Chuck wrote these prescient words:

*On the day of the terrorist attack on New York and Washington, DC, God rest the souls of those who have perished today. God protect our freedoms from outside forces and inside forces. God we pray for understanding as to what has happened to us as a country and why. God lead us to remember all religions, Islamic, Judeo and Christianity, having love and tolerance as their goals. Do not let a few madmen in each of these groups cause us not to have tolerance and love for each other. God help us deal effectively with the madmen who promoted this tragedy in a way that does not produce more madmen. Help us all bring peace to this world. God let us never become so arrogant to not realize that by the luck of birth we are Americans and not a starving Nigerian, an angry Palestinian or a frustrated Israeli. Let us work to bring peace and prosperity to all the world because we are in the end - ONE.*

### Patriots, Guests and Departed

**John Nelson** led us in *America the Beautiful*, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests were then recognized. **Steve Webert** introduced his friend, **Roy Sundahl** - and **David Bobanick** introduced his friend, **Jim Loughlin**. As returning guests, **Bruce Peters** introduced **Ray Benitos**, and **John Frazier** introduced **Rick Davis**.

**John Frazier** also reported that **Bill McGovern** has withdrawn from membership to spend more time with his family - and that his “no-good” brother **Jim Frazier** has moved to North Seattle and has withdrawn to concentrate on his new company. We'll greatly miss both of you guys and wish you well.

### Raaum Unleashed

Gus Raaum was in true Viking form imposing a record-breaking array of fines for everything from celebrating anniversaries (congratulations Steve Webert, Keith Blue and that great combo Scott Bowen/Vali Somers - \$50 please), to gloating over football scores (sorry, Bob Olson, for Michigan's loss to Keith's Beavers), to birthdays (fines imposed according to a formula that clearly discriminates against the elderly).

### The Auctioneer

Then **Sam Sullivan** exhibited his inborn talent for auctioneering, managing to work the crowd (with **Bruce Peters** as runner-up) for a final bid from **Tony Vedral** of \$140 for a pair of tickets to the ballet (thanks to **Joyce Wager** for the contribution of tickets).

### Reminders and Reports

Don't forget the coming **Fireside**, just a day away – this Wednesday, September 12, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Booth residence. Thanks **Melinda** and **Paul Booth**!

**John Frazier** reported on action by the Board. Approving the recommendation of the Grants and Awards Committee, \$500 has been granted to *Operation Warm* which provides coats and needed clothing to underprivileged kids who skip school on cold days because they have nothing warm to wear. Also approved is a reduction in fees for new MI Rotary members under age 40 – \$100 in the first year and \$50 thereafter until reaching age 40.

*Jump-starting a Clean Energy Future*

Our speaker spoke eloquently on the need to reduce our dependency on foreign oil and to save the planet from greenhouse gases. **Steve Marshall** is currently a senior fellow at Discovery Institute's Cascadia Center which works on regional transportation solutions. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and, beginning his career with the Seattle law firm of Perkins Coie, moved on to become General Counsel of Puget Sound Power and Light. He now devotes his energies to fostering and realizing the benefits of electrified transportation.

In Seattle and King County, we have grown with electric trolley busses. We have seen electric power spread to port facilities, school buses and trucks. But that's only the beginning. The revolution is bound to extend to cars and light-duty vehicles of all types – moving from the lighter gas-driven and gas-electric hybrids we see today to total electric plug-in vehicles and hybrids not using any fossil fuels. As this revolution progresses, the auto manufacturing business will undergo radical change. The economics of oil dominated by oil-producing countries and large international oil cartels will be transformed. None of this will occur without agonizing new problems, such as the loss of tax revenues on oil which presently go to fund our transportation system.

Much of Steve's message focused on the economy of electrically-powered vehicles. These vehicles can be charged at night so as to utilize the power grid during slack periods. The technology has improved to the point that engines can accelerate a car from 0 to 60 in four seconds flat – truly matching the power of gas-driven engines. Batteries are capable of more-and-more power and longer life. The effect on climate is profound, nearly eliminating the vehicle's emissions of carbon dioxide and heat-trapping gases. What this means in terms of dependency on foreign oil and geopolitics is something we can only ponder on this sixth anniversary of Nine Eleven.

*A Final thought*

**John Frazier** was sufficiently inspired to pass on to us this profound parting thought: ***When everything is going your way, you're in the wrong lane.*** Hmmm! Now what do you suppose John means by that?

**Brian Comstock**, Cub Reporter