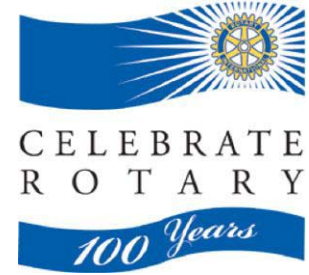




TIKI WA'HA ROTARY CLUB OF ALA MOANA



August 5, 2004

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE "WHAT DOES ROTARY MEAN TO ME?"

Dave Berry

By Sam Shenkus



I was literally born into the hospitality industry in Toledo, Ohio at the Commodore Perry Hotel. When I was still a baby, my Dad was a bellboy at the Commodore Perry and he moved the family into this hotel to live. My Dad worked very hard, kept getting promoted to bigger hotels and my sister was born seven years later at the Roosevelt Hotel in Pittsburgh. We loved being hotel brats, moved to Chicago and then in 1946, Dad became the General Manager of two Los Angeles hotels. To this day, I still love to brag that at 11 years old, my first girlfriend was another 11 year old, actress Maragret O'Brien. My love life was fleeting as Dad went back to Chicago, then Pennsylvania where I graduated from Central High School in Scranton in 1955. I attended Cornell University, majored in hotel management and was the first in my family to graduate from college with a Bachelor Degree in Hotel Administration in 1959. I entered the Navy's Officer Candidate school and was commissioned in 1960 as an Ensign managing officers clubs and bachelor offices quarters at the New London Submarine Base in Connecticut. By 1963 I had fulfilled my obligation, left the Navy as a Lieutenant and began my hotel career as the General Manager of the Hawks Bill Beach Hotel in Antigua, British West Indies. In 1965 I became the General Manager of Yuma Arizona's leading hotel, the Yuma Holiday Inn, and was warmly welcomed by the Rotary Club of Yuma. My fondest Rotarian memory of that club was being Santa for our annual Christmas Eve community project of taking food and gifts into the barrios of Mexico. In 1968, I was promoted to a property in Massachusetts and joined the Rotary Club of Leominister. However, in 1970 I was offered the position of Director of Club Operations for the U.S. Army and dove into this very challenging Pentagon based job. I traveled a lot in this position, met MaryAnn for the first time while I was visiting Fort Shafter and we enjoyed keeping in touch. In 1971 I was featured on the cover of Institutions magazine as a leader in the hospitality industry and in 1972 MaryAnn relocated to the Pentagon. In 1974, MaryAnn and I were married, I left my Army management position to begin my consulting business and serve as the Department Head of the Hotel & Travel Department at Montgomery College in Maryland. One of my biggest projects was the development of a 50-acre resort containing a 250 room Sheraton Hotel, a 100 room motel, a freestanding nightclub and two freestanding restaurants in historical Sturbirdg Village in Massachusetts. In 1983 I added a travel agency to my consulting business and then joined the Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads in 1985. This was the first time that my membership was totally based on wanting to be a Rotarian and in 1993, I had the great opportunity to become a charter member of the Rotary Club of West Potomac with MaryAnn. As the charter President of this club, we pulled together and achieved terrific community service projects. In the club's first five years, we won 28 District and International Awards. In 2001, we decided to retire in Hawaii and my District Governor sent a letter to several Oahu Rotary Club Presidents. Our DG forgot to include our contact address and phone information in his letter, yet we got a call from President Chris Worrall who had taken the time to track us down with a personal invitation to join the Ala Moana Club. Over the years, we had always enjoyed making up at Ala Moana and when we became members, the fellowship and friendship of the club really helped me to look forward to our Thursday lunch meetings. I just love New Generations, working with RYLA and Interactors and being constantly inspired by our young people. I am very proud to be a Rotarian and excited about a future of service above self with my friends and my lovely bride.

ALA MOANA HOTEL - LUNCH - THURSDAY NOON

AUGUST PROGRAMS

12th

**Maile Kanemaru
Weed & Seed Program**

19th

**John Garibaldi
Hawaii Superferry**

26th

**Ronald McDonald House
Speaker to be named**

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**President of Rotary International
Glenn Estess, Sr.
District Governor District 5000
Claude Thompson,**

**Rotary Club of Ala Moana
Officers, Directors, Committee
Chairs
Rotary Year 2004-2005**

**President – Milton Miyakawa
President-Elect – Clayton Wong
Vice President – Glenn Tsumura
Secretary – Stephen Arita
Treasurer – Valri Murata
Past President – Tony Wong**

**Community Service and
New Generation – Victor Corpuz
Vocational Service – Berlyn Hinazumi
International Service – Roger Lerud
Club Service and
Sergeant-at-Arms – Mary Ann Berry
Fnds (RI & HRYF) – Rich Courson
Membership & PR – Sam Shenkus
Attendance – Wally Young
Fundraising – Dave Berry
Indoctrination – Dick Bento
Historian – Ethel Ching**

Weekly Meeting Highlights

We again dined at the Ala Moana Hotel on 05 August 2004 for our regular weekly meeting, but remember, we are meeting at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii for our 12 August 2004 meeting – Mark your calendars. Highlights were as follows:

This Week's Ala Moana Rotary "Marathon Man": He does everything! Our own, Jody Kadokawa did the prayer, inspiration, introductions, and pledge today! Unreal! Actually, his inspirational piece was very interesting. It was a story about a truck stuck beneath an overpass. Seems the truck's height was 18 feet but the space beneath the overpass was slightly less than that. All the experts were trying to figure out how to get the truck out when a kid came by offering a solution for five bucks. The experts paid him off, and the solution was given. Solution: Let some air out of the tires. Jody's point was that the optimal solution sometimes comes from unexpected quarters.



Our Marathon Man, Jody Kadokawa.

The Four-Way Test *Of the things we Think, Say and 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?



New Weekly Meeting Billing System: President Milton announced that a system for collecting funds by pre-payment or at the door is being developed. The fee for payment at the door will be some “round number” to simplify the collection process. Pre-payment plans would be slightly less expensive to account for the actual costs. President Milton added that the intent is not to collect more money than incurred costs, but we need to figure out something simple. More to follow.

Membership Development Meeting: President Milton announced that District 5000 (Hal Darcy) will be holding a membership development meeting tomorrow evening (06 August 2004), at the Nuuanu YMCA. If you signed up, please show up!



The weekly meeting gang checking in at the front table before the meeting.

Ala Moana Rotary Pool Party: There will be a pool party at Dave and Mary Ann Berry’s condominium on 18 August 2004. The sign-up sheet is out, so sign-up and let’s go swimming! Or perhaps, cocktails next to the pool may be more to some of our liking.

Pahole Endangered Hawaiian Plants Nursery: This service project will be on 28 August 2004. Those interested are urged to sign up early so that transportation accommodations (to the parking area, and up to the nursery) can be arranged. There will be a variety of service opportunities, depending on how adventurous the individual volunteer is. The Hawaii Baptist Academy Interact Club is also participating in this service project. We will likely affix our signage to one of the buildings to designate this project as our Rotary Centennial Project. Sign up and come out!



Guest Speaker: Rod Haraga, Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation, spoke to our club today. Rod was born and raised in Hawaii but left for the mainland in 1961. He's been away for about 40 years, and is happy to be back in his Palolo Valley stomping grounds.



Guest Speaker, Rod Haraga, with Valri Murata.

Rod started his presentation by stating that there is no solution to Hawaii's traffic problem – There will always be traffic! To address future traffic congestion, control of Hawaii's land use ordinance must be employed – If we allow people to build in areas, there will be traffic. He added that there are a number of measures being taken to alleviate the traffic congestion and these are as follows:

- **Lunalilo On-Ramp Demonstration Project:** State DOT is spending about \$200,000 to temporarily close the Lunalilo on-ramp.
- **They feel this will avoid vehicles using the freeway as a “express way” – Getting on the freeway then taking the next off ramp. They estimate that the closing of this on ramp will save travelers about 8 minutes.**
- **Nimitz Highway Contra-Flow:** This project was put into place a while back at a price of \$1 million, and it saves commuters between 15 and 20 minutes of travel time.
- **Freeway Ramp Metering:** This scheme controls the amount of vehicles accessing the freeway at any one time. This will avoid vehicles already on the freeway from having to brake for on-coming traffic. This system is already used extensively on the mainland.
- **Freeway Service Patrol:** Tow trucks will be patrolling the freeways 6 days per week and assisting stalled vehicles. This program will be at no additional cost to the public and will be funded from Hawaii's gas tax fund.
- **Re-synchronizing City Stoplights:** The State the City are currently coordinating efforts to get this done.



Guest speaker Rod Haraga at the podium

Additional ground transportation subject covered were:

- **Moanalua Freeway re-pavement project.**
- **Waimalu Lane Expansion.**
- **Afternoon contra-flow lanes.**
- **State Transportation Task Force:** The Governor has assembled a committee of legislators, council persons, and the like to brainstorm possible transportation solutions for the future. Interesting, the primary solution currently is some sort of rail system. Unfortunately, the price tag on this sort of system is estimated to be about \$2.5 billion, not including the cost of the vehicles. The maintenance of this sort of system is estimated to be about \$20 million per year.

Rod also touched upon other aspects of transportation. First, he announced that a “super ferry” system is seriously being contemplated for inter-island transportation, as the local airlines move towards longer flights. A ferry system is anticipated by late-2006, but about \$130 million of harbor improvements will be necessary to accommodate the system. On a related note, it is estimated that Honolulu Harbor will be out of space by 2007. The harbor and supporting infrastructure needs to be expanded desperately. In addition, the neighbor island harbors need even more work!

Rod added that our airports need a lot of work as well. During the heavy rains earlier this week, numerous leaks sprung from the roofs! In addition, we need a new International Terminal Building to take better care of our visitors, our primary source of income. It has been about 20 years since the last major airport renovation project and the new terminal building may cost as much as \$1 billion to build