

# Red Lodge

J U L Y 8, 2 0 1 0



**Ray Klinginsmith**  
President,  
Rotary International

**Dave Kinsey**  
District Governor,  
District 5390

**Glory Mahan**  
President  
(406) 446-1232  
gloryb@vcn.com

**TBD**  
President Elect

**Roger Jackson**  
(406) 446-0324  
Treasurer

**Sandy Conlee**  
(406) 425-1457  
Secretary

**Committee Chairs  
To be Determined**  
Club Service  
Membership  
International Service  
Foundation  
Community/Vocational

## Guests

Sandy served as president today because our new treasurer, Roger Jackson, was absent, and Glory needed to serve as treasurer one more time. In addition, Glory is up to her eyeballs in parades, rodeos, etc.

Glory introduced her guests: granddaughter Megan and friend Ruth Larson. Sue Bury introduced her guest, husband Dave Stauffer. Phil Robertson said we're close to meeting our rodeo volunteer obligation. Sandy announced that we will have a discussion of whether to continue with rodeo, cut back to one day, hold some other fund-raiser, etc.

## Golf Tournament

We obtained \$12,000 in sponsorships for the golf tournament, but we are still in discussions with JMA over our final bill; JMA has not supported our efforts as did the previous owners. We will also need to discuss the future of the golf tournament.

## Rotary Business

- Thanks to golf pro Ken Sipes, the estate of Dick and Janet Pierson has donated a Jeep Cherokee to Rotary, and we are auctioning it with 100 \$20 tickets—\$1,000 of the proceeds will support the junior golf program and the other \$1,000 will be at our disposal. The car is a 1992 4WD Laredo with 94,000 miles; spotless interior, some wear on the exterior. Contact Sandy for tickets.

- Sandy has available the report on the latest resolutions, rules, etc., adopted by the Rotary International governing body—ask her if you'd like to take a look. A international directory of clubs and their meeting locations/times will be kept in our Rotary cupboard—check it out before you travel.
- We received a note from Jody Ackerman thanking us for our continued support of Boys & Girls through the golf tournament.
- Betsy Scanlin, who has graciously taken on our program scheduling, announced that next week

will be scrapbook time—we'll review Anne Laird's wonderful work on our documents and photos, and old-time members will be asked for their recollections.

## The Bradfords

A last report on John and LaVetta Bradford: July 5, 2010

LaVetta is now out of intensive care, and both she and John welcome visitors, at Billings Clinic. LaVetta can't talk, but writes to communicate – she's in the heart and lung unit of the Clinic and wears an oxygen mask, learning to breathe on her own after chest injuries. She is alert and interested in everything, says daughter Tracy.

John is in the extended care unit, and there's a bed nearby reserved for LaVetta when she can make the move. John can't walk until his broken back heals and brace is taken off...and he can put weight on his pelvis; he could be looking at six to 12 weeks of physical therapy.

## Spin Time

Sergeant-at-Arms Ernie cited Glory for wearing a president-elect pin, which is no longer correct! Sandy officially "pinned" Glory, making her our president for '10-'11. Nevertheless, Ernie made Glory spin and she paid \$2.

In other spinning: Sue Bury \$2, Joel Todd \$1, Bill Potter \$3 (wheel malfunction), Bryan Loewen \$2, Josh O'Shea \$1, Skip Alekcich \$1, Ron Roodell \$5.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Anne Laird**

*History of Red Lodge Rotary*

### July

- 15 To be scheduled
- 22 To be scheduled
- 29 To be scheduled

**August 5-6 District Assembly**, Red Lodge: RI President, Ray Klinginsmith, will be present!

- 7 Miles City: Great Western Trail Marker Dedication

## 50/50 Winner

Skip Alekchich won the \$12 drawing and gave the money to Mitzi Vorachek, because Mitzi always says that if she wins, she'll keep it. Glory was appalled. After considerable negotiation, Glory kept \$10 and gave Mitzi \$2.

## Program Report

Our guest, Shawn Stewart, is a native Montanan who received his bachelor's and master's degrees in fish and wildlife management from Montana State University-Bozeman. He joined the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department in 1971, and he has been the FWP wildlife biologist in Red Lodge since 1976. In addition to his job, he has led research projects on a number of species, resulting in many publications in peer-reviewed wildlife management journals.

Shawn said that hibernation sets bears apart from many other mammals. Other hibernators' metabolic rates drop dramatically, and they are almost impossible to wake up. Bear temperature rates drop less than other mammals' although their heart rate drops significantly, and bears are more alert and easily aroused during hibernation. They must awake every 8 to 12 days to eat, drink, urinate, and defecate.

Shawn recalled one radio-collared male bear; when he and another biologist and a research assistant went to the den to tranquilize the bear and replace the collar, they found the signal moving around in the den. As Shawn put it, biologists are not expendable but RAs are – however, the RA, being a bright young guy, refused to go in.

Bears breed during May and June, and the fertilized egg floats in the sow's uterus. When she dens, if she's in good physical shape, the egg will implant; if she's not in good condition, the egg will not implant—called delayed implantation. In the fall, pregnant females are the first bears to den, usually around October 15. At the end of January or first of February, the female will give birth in the den—remember, she has no source of food or water, but she must be able to nurse the cubs until around mid-April, whenever conditions are right for leaving the den.

When bears emerge, there's not much to eat—maybe a winter-kill deer—in the high, rocky terrain they inhabit in order to avoid adult males, who will likely kill the cubs. As spring progresses, there will be grasses and flowers to eat; black bears are primarily vegetarian. As the south-facing slopes dry out, and vegetation loses its nutritional value, bears drop down to the creek bottoms. When elk calves and deer fawns are born in June, some black bears will prey on them.

Although there are plenty of moist grasses on the creek bottoms, black bears continue to lose weight until early August, when berries begin to ripen. Serviceberry is OK, but chokecherry is the best for nutrition and most stable source, and hawthorn berry is sometimes a back-up. So from August 1 to mid-October, black bears obtain their nutrition for the year—they become “eating machines.”

Seeds from the cones of the white bark pine, a high elevation

tree, are extremely nutritious. Some years, there are no cones; other years, there are a lot; and most years, there are some. The population dynamics of the Yellowstone grizzly bear are extremely dependent on these seeds. Unfortunately, global warming is exacerbating the problems of blister rust and mountain pine beetles, and trees are dying.

Shawn then turned to the issue of human-bear relations. Our local topography funnels bears into Rock Creek and right into Red Lodge, where they encounter houses, subdivisions, and the town itself. The biggest problem is mismanaged garbage—which is nutritionally great for the bears. Yearling bears fed on natural food weigh about 42 pounds; yearling bears with access to garbage weight 10 to 15 pounds more than that. Shawn recalled one big male who was a patron of the Red Box Car; Shawn tranquilized and moved the bear away, but “I think he beat me back into town.” After another 12 days of Box Car garbage, Shawn again tranquilized the bear for removal and found that he had gained 15 pounds.

Bears that become habituated to garbage become pests and may start breaking into houses. Shawn reported that Yellowstone is “saturated” with grizzly bears and that more bears will come to live on the Beartooth face—because grizzlies are more temperament and potentially dangerous than black bears, it is even more imperative to get control of our garbage.

Shawn congratulated the City Council and “Ernie's group” [that's the Beartooth Front Community Forum and the BFCF Living With Wildlife Committee, which Ernie heads up] for getting our bear-resistant garbage bins placed around town last summer. We had three bears in town last year compared to 10 to 15 in previous years. When the bears could no longer readily get garbage from homes, they moved to commercial sites, and Shawn has worked with business owners to clean up their garbage as well. Bear will always mosey through town, but they are much less likely to make their living here when garbage is contained.

Shawn notes that July is the driest month and hence the worst for bears, so “we'll see” how the summer goes. But so far, the garbage containment has made a “remarkable difference.”

In Q&A, Shawn said:

- If you encounter a bear, you should make some noise, and it will almost always run away. If a bear ignores you, that's not aggression—they just don't care about you one way or the other. A grizzly is different, potentially more dangerous, but even grizzlies will most likely just go away.
- Cutworm moths are a source of bear nutrition in the Absarokas and in Yellowstone but not very much in the Beartooths. These moths are more important for grizzlies than for black bears.
- Grizzly bears are adapted to open country, and they are moving east from the mountains, even as far as Fort Benton. Black bears are adapted to trees.
- Most people in Red Lodge has been cooperative about the garbage bins. Failing to comply is a ticketable offense, so the police or FWP game warden Kevin Nichols can issue a ticket, but only one was issued last summer. So far, Shawn says, there has been “excellence cooperation.”