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Rob Wood  Web Design
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April 21, 2011
Rob Wood and SSF HS Interact Club will host club members
To lunch during their meeting at the High School.
They plan to have a fund raiser with auction items.
It is too bad that so few club members did not attend this important discussion; which involves a potential shut down of the South City CalTrain Station. That at the same time we are near obtaining a ferry system providing service to points in the Bay.

The principle problems facing the San Francisco Peninsula are ones that have been front and center forever. Those are crime and education. However transportation has also been important, but today it is becoming critical for those making long range projections. In the recent past, we overcame, more or less, the proliferation of automobiles by building more and faster roadways. But now, even with a minimum of fore site, it is apparent the gas guzzling auto and even other means of propulsion are going to be lessened and that clean and efficient public transportation will be a necessity.

The CalTrain system that runs between San Francisco and Gilroy has, since its forming 30 or so years ago, been kind of a step sister, in that it has been subsidized by contributions from the three counties in which it runs and these three counties have not been consistent as to their participation. There is no sales tax or similar source of revenue that CalTrains could count on.

This year with all three counties operating near a deficit, the problem is worse. Originally projected have more than a $30 million deficit, according to Todd McIntyre, the representative from CalTrain that spoke to a joint meeting of the Rotary Clubs of San Bruno and South San Francisco. This would require closing a number of stations including the South San Francisco Station. This would be a shame and is the wrong direction for the health of the community.

CalTrain has made major improvements to the system the last few years. They have added the fast train (Baby Bullet) service that has cut commuting time 25%. They have also improved fare collection and added destination signs in most stations. As a result, rider ship has increased from a daily count of 22,500 in 2004 to 41,000 today. They run 86 trains a day.

Further rider ship increases are bound to occur as the cost of gas goes up and the City of San Francisco increasingly makes driving and parking in the City more difficult.

By some magic, that was hard to fathom, some additional money came available lately so that they can finance 76 trains a day and limit the number of stations to be shut down. Whatever the number may be it an undesirable consequence.

Rather than allowing any decrease in capacity because of inadequate financing; the system must obtain a permanent money source, so that long range planning can continue. This includes converting the system from diesel propulsion to electric and providing more bypasses over busy highway crossings. Too many pedestrians are being killed because the right of way is not protected.

The CalTrain Board is going to make a major decision for the future soon.

Projects In Haiti Brings Badly Needed Clean Water

A child drinks clean water from a spigot in Haiti. A US$64,566 contribution from the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund is supporting a project of the Rotary Club of Mirebalais, Centre, to construct 80 rainwater collection tanks, each with a 2,500-gallon capacity.

April Is Rotarian Magazine Month

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Ten Rotary Clubs In District 5150 Join Together To Provide New Furniture For The USO at SFO Airport.

Last night a party was held at the USO facility at the Airport to celebrate the arrival of new furniture for the USO. The list of furniture included ten lounge recliners, a couch, a love seat and 6 dining chairs.

All came about after Carolyn Livengood thanked Norm Martin for our Club’s efforts to bring television reception to the Homeless Shelter near the airport. Norm then said to her if there is anything you ever need just ask. Well that opened the door. Carolyn went on to say that the USO was badly in need of five new recliners. The ones they currently had were breaking down. Norm’s answer was call Don Bowccut.

Upon hearing the USO’s request Don thought about where to start looking for recliners. He first called Mark Flegel PDG, who owns Flegel Furniture in Menlo Park. Mark immediately jumped upon the request and arranged with his suppliers in Georgia to manufacture the recliners. Mark was able to negotiate a price of $500 per chair. Don obligated your club to provide a chair. Susan Shapira, Executive Director was thrilled to find out that we were going to help out. But then the request grew to the list mention above.

The challenge came back to Don now to come up with the funds to pay for the ten requested recliners. With Norm’s help, we canvassed the Peninsula Clubs for help. They, without hesitation committed to buying a recliner. The nine clubs that contributed were Millbrae, San Bruno, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Francisco, Foster City, Burlingame, San Carlos and San Mateo.

In attendance at this event was DG Bill Kooefood with wife Betsy, PDG Dr. Eric Shapira, husband of USO Director Susan, PDG Mark Flegel, Mark and Hilda Barradas and various members from the contributing clubs.

Projects In Haiti Brings Badly Needed Clean Water