

PROGRAMME

Audio Video Presentation on Good Reading

Guest Speaker:

Lt. Gen. B.S. Dhaliwal

PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)

Former Engineer-in-Chief, Indian Army

Friday, June 03, 2011

Time: 7.00 p.m. Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Experiences on Cruise to Alaska

We had a house full attendance in the club meeting on May 27, 2011 as we wanted to share PP Rtn. Trilochan S. Anand's amazing Experiences on Cruise to Alaska. A dedicated Rotarian, Tochi is ever ready to help the Rotary cause. He needed no introduction, but as it is customary the formalities



had to be completed. He was introduced by PP Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Vanita Gupta as an alumnus of St. John's School, BITS Pilani from where he did Electronics Engineering with a Masters from Punjab Engineering College. She recalled Tochi's Rotary career as President of our club in 1985-86 when we had constructed 16 huts in the leper colony and had Pankaj Udhas to do a fund raiser event. Tochi was instrumental in starting the International Youth Exchange Program in Chandigarh as District Chariman for four years. He was Assistant Governor in 2001-02 under PDG Rtn. Subhash Garg. He is a Multiple PHF and all his family members are also PHFs. He is Managing Director of Widex India Pvt. Ltd, a successful and leading company in the hearing aid business. Tochi is known as Mr. Widex for having made this brand so visible and familiar, and for this there is tremendous support from his wife Preety. Their son Anup and daughter Tara had brought honour to the family as both of them have done MBA from the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.

Tochi presented the history of Alaska which was once known as Russian America. This territory was bought by the USA from Russia for USD 7.2 million. At that time it was considered to be a great folly but obviously this was a transaction that Russia must have regretted since. He asked the assembly what they thought they associated with Alaska. The answers were

Oil, wildlife, snow and glaciers, but in lighter vein, he told them, "To my mind Alaska was really made famous by Sarah Palin the beautiful former Governor of Alaska who ran for the Vice Presidency against Obama!" Assisted by Preety, Tochi gave an interesting power point presentation, and showed photos and movie clips of the wild life in Alaska. The most famous animals are the Bald Eagle which almost became extinct and is now a protected species; seals, brown bears and whales.

He said, "The cruise we had taken on the Royal Caribbean ship Serenade of the Seas from Vancouver stopped in five small ports. The most famous of these were Juneau the capital of Alaska; Icy Straight Point which was a small trading port; Tracy Arm Fjord; Skagway and back to Vancouver."

On these stops there was opportunity to buy souvenirs and enjoy the beautiful scenery. He said, "In Icy Straight Point we could do a Zip ride; In Juneau there was the opportunity to take a helicopter ride to the glaciers inland. This is a unique experience because the helicopter lands on the glacier giving an opportunity to see the stark landscape and hear the sounds coming from the glacier itself. In Skagway we took a train ride to the top of an old pass which was used in the nineteenth century by miners at the time of the gold rush."



While showing photographs on board the ship, Tochi described the details of life on board the cruise ship, "It was very beautiful. Almost 1000 feet long and weighing over 90,000 tons it is immense. It can accommodate 2500 passengers and over 850 crew members. In spite of its size the ship can move at

Donations for Aasra Project

In response to an appeal made in the club meeting last Friday by Rtn. Mrs. Kanan Diwan, for contributions for urgent need of desert coolers for our Aasra Shelter at GMCH-32, following donations were received, which is gratefully acknowledged.

Rtn. Jawahar Luthra	Rs. 11000
Mrs. Janak Bindra M/o PP Rtn. Subhash Bindra	Rs. 10000
PP Rtn. T.S. Anand	Rs. 5000
PE Rtn. R K Luther	Rs. 5000
Rtn. Ritu Singal	Rs. 2000
Rtn. Amarjit Singh	Rs. 1500
IPP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep	Rs. 1100
Rtn. Arjan Singh	Rs. 1100

Appeal by PE Rtn. R.K. Luther

Our Club has a matching grant project for providing Hearing Aids to School going children below poverty line in the age group of 0-10 years. Total cost of the project is Rs. 12.5 lakh, for which our club has to contribute Rs. 2.25 lakh. All members are requested to donate generously for this noble cause. We are thankful to following Rotarians for their contributions.

PDG Rtn Shaju Peter	Rs. 10000
PE Rtn. R K Luther	Rs. 10000
Rtn. Mrs. Ritu Singal	Rs. 10000
Rtn. Mrs. Kanan Diwan	Rs. 10000
Rtn. Amarjit Singh	Rs. 5000
Rtn. A.K. Puri	Rs. 5000
Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon	Rs. 5000
Rtn. Ashok Singla	Rs. 2000

RI Convention at New Orleans

On his return from New Orleans PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter would share his personal experience at the RI Convention. A report by Ryan Hyland and Antoinette Tuscano in Rotary International News dated 26 May 2011 is given below.

As Rotarians said goodbye to New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, and another successful RI Convention, two leaders who have had a lasting impact on the organization also said farewell.

Ed Futa, of the Rotary Club of East Honolulu, Hawaii, addressed his last convention as general secretary, a position he's held for 11 years. "I will go back to my first Rotary job, which was and still is the most important job in all of Rotary: the job of being a Rotarian," said Futa, who retires 30 June. "I've had the honor and the satisfaction of being a part of so many of Rotary's accomplishments: Future Vision, our strategic plan, and our transformation from a valuable -- but sometimes undervalued -- community service organization into a key player in the world of international health and development," Futa said. "PolioPlus has put us in this new position."

John Hewko, the incoming general secretary, addressed the fourth plenary session and will take office 1 July.

RI President Ray Klinginsmith said the highlights of his term have included providing regional assistance for districts and clubs through the new Rotary coordinators and Rotary public

image coordinators, developing a more productive relationship with Rotarian Action Groups, moving toward a more uniform size for Rotary districts, and improving the process for selecting and training district governors. "This year has been a good year for Rotary," he said. "There has never been a more exciting time to be Rotarians, as we approach the end of polio. Our community service projects around the world are estimated to provide local investments of about US\$1 billion every year, and our youth and young adult programs are the best in the world. And our Rotary Foundation continues to gain strength."

More than 18,500 members of the family of Rotary, representing 151 countries and geographical areas, took part in the 2011 convention, where they were asked to redouble their efforts to eradicate polio and embrace humanity by thinking of new ways to take on today's challenges.

RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee outlined his plans for the coming year and explained the three emphases -- family, continuity and change -- that should guide Rotarians as they work to support the 2011-12 RI theme, *Reach Within to Embrace Humanity*.

Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, told Rotarians that eradicating polio was his foundation's top priority. Rotarians must intensify their efforts to wipe the deadly disease off the earth, he said.

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