

Crackers


COSMOPOLITAN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA INC.

Vol. LVI No.02

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Access the Cosmo website
<http://sbcosmo.com>
for current and archived issues of
Crackers and special events
information

Crackers Editor



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profit sector. Steve's past positions include: Professional Baseball Player, California Angels Director of Athletics, City of San Diego Director, San Diego Marathon Development Director, San Diego Heart Association Executive Director, San Diego State Athletic Foundation Associate Director, Southwest Museum Executive Director, and Santa Barbara Downtown Organization. He lives in Santa Barbara with his wife Sheila, who is leading the effort to create a Children's Museum in Santa Barbara.

September 3 Dr. Robert Reid "The Future of Health Care"

September 17 Alan Heeger "Solar Cell Production"

October 1 Ted Tedesco "Aspen Institute in Santa Barbara?"

October 15 Dan O'Dowd "Computer Security"

Wine Drawing

The wine drawing was won by Herb Friedman with Bob Zimels doing the honors. Bob Zimels, with unclear motives, also gifted a sack of used golf balls to Mike Rodrigue. The wine was one of Sid's great Chardonnays. The balls looked rather the worse for wear.



Regular Events

Bridge – Bridge winners 16 July

1st	David Kain	3750
2nd	Ralph Edebo	3540
3rd	Ed Loper	3230



Join us for FUN bridge...We gather upstairs after all regular meetings and play Party bridge until 3:30. Contact: Pres Gould at 964-6568 or pwgould@cox.net

Annual Dues Notice

Annual dues of \$60 were due in July, the start of fiscal year 2009-2010. Your check, payable to Cosmopolitan Club, may be hand delivered to David Kain, the Treasurer, or mailed to Cosmo Club, PO Box 3993, S.B. CA 93130.

Next Program:

August 6 Karen Giuffre "Shaybah Oil Field in Saudi Arabia"

Karen Giuffre graduated from UCSB with a degree in English. She subsequently attended UCSB Graduate School of Education. Karen currently teaches "English as a Second Language" for Santa Barbara City College. She also created and founded the educational learning program "PronouncePro"; Fundamentals of Pronouncing American English.

Ms Giuffre resided in Dhahran Saudi Arabia from 1984-90, as her former husband was hired by ARAMCO, Arabian American Oil Company, as an emergency room doctor for the hospital in Dhahran. Through the generous contributions of Ali Baluchi, an executive with Saudi ARAMCO, 500 annuitants were invited to see their "home" again for the spectacular "2009 Reunion".

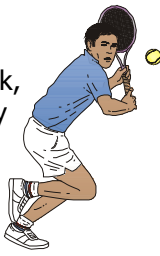
Future Programs

August 20 Steve Cushman "The Santa Barbara Economy"

For the last 20 years, Steve Cushman has served as President of the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce. He earned his BA from UCSB and has completed graduate course work in Public Administration at San Diego State University and the University of California San Diego. Steve has worked in private enterprise, government, universities, museums, and the non-

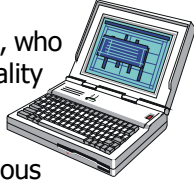
Tennis

The COSMO tennis group play doubles twice a week, and all tennis players are invited to join us. We play at a private court in Shadow Hills starting at 8 AM Mondays and Thursdays. Contact Bruce Long, 692-4072, bruce93103@cox.net, or Walter Mead, 682-3045.



COSMO Computer Society

Our next meeting, on 21 July, features Jim Davis, who will tell us about "Quantum Mysteries": Is the reality you observe contingent on you, the observer, or is it just "out there" waiting for you to observe it? Is there any reason to believe that instantaneous communication is possible, as when a voodoo doctor pierces his doll and the human target, miles away, instantly drops dead? Do such ideas have any basis in science? Jim Davis' talk Quantum Mysteries confronts these questions



Meets regularly upstairs at the Elks Club on the third Tuesday of every month. Discussion starts at 10:00 AM. The feature presentation starts at 10:30 AM, concluding with a no-host fellowship luncheon in the Elks Grill. All COSMO members are welcome.

Jim Stubchaer & Bob Gerity:
Program Co-Chairs;
Howard Glenn: Chair, 967-2633 or
hbglen@cox.net.

S. A. G. E. Investment Group

We meet at 10 AM on the first Tuesday of each month at the Elks Club on the 2nd floor, then enjoy a no-host lunch in the grill downstairs. We do not select or buy stocks. Dick Evans, Chairman (805) 967-6930 or dickevans@mac.com.



Golf

Montecito Country Club:

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Another great bargain at the MCC. This fabulous event will include lunch, green fees, carts, prize \$ and hot hors d'oeuvres after the round for the bargain price of only FORTY FIVE DOLLARS. The number of golfers will be limited to eighteen (18) plus sponsors so, please sign up early for this great event. You are invited to sign up beyond the 18 slots and you will be accommodated if possible through cancellations if there are any. Special attention: The format will NOT be our usual scramble. It will be a surprise format which will be the same as the regular MCC members will be playing on that day. Sign up table will be available at the lunches starting Thursday, July 16, 2008. Any questions please contact Marty Tucker or the Golf Committee Chairman Ron Singer



Add to your calendar:

Glen Annie Golf Course: Tuesday September 15th
This event will include a sit down lunch with choice of 4 entrees at the Frog Bar and Grill, soft beverages; then the golf. We have

not decided on a format but I would look for some sort of scramble. Lunch will be at 11:45 followed immediately by the golf with tee-off about 12:45. Ropes will be down so the course will be easily accessed by us flatlanders. All this and a prize fund for the price of \$55-. Sign-ups will commence at the next meeting. Coordinators for this event are Bill Montag and Harv Turner.

Montecito Country Club: November 11, (probably our final opportunity for at least some time) – Details will follow

Weekly Golf Events

Monday at Santa Barbara Golf Club (Muni).

Tee times from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Regular senior rate is \$20 for 18 holes, not including cart. If you would like to play, contact Ron Singer by Friday before the Monday to secure your tee time. Golf Chair - Ron Singer, 684-1355, rsinger916@aol.com

Monday at Twin Lakes par 29

For those who wish to get their golfing in more quickly, or just work on their short game, each Monday at 9:00 a.m. members gather at the Twin Lakes Nine for a good walk spoiled. Wednesday at Ocean Meadows par 36
For those who want to work on their long-ball skills, and appreciate a nice walk on the flat grass, the Ocean Meadows group tees off for an easy nine holes on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m.

Friday at a variety of nearby courses

Contact Ron Singer to get on the email list and you will be notified of the location of the next "Floating Golf Game". This format offers golf for those who cannot seem to get enough golf on the Monday/Wednesday games. Recent venues have included La Purisma, Glen Annie, Soule Park, and Rancho San Marcos. We usually have three start times for this "new" tradition.

SPECIAL EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Special Events Committee wants the membership to help with this year's events agenda. This committee has put together some very fine events over the past few years. There must be something that you would participate in if it were offered; it could be a repeat of an event that you missed out on before or something that the club has yet to try.

The committee would appreciate hearing from the membership what special events you would be interested in attending in 2009-2010.

Possible events to be considered could be theatre, local & out of town; music events, Disney Hall & local performances; museums, art, etc; trips to scenic destinations, Las Vegas, etc; informal dances & or dinner parties.

Share your ideas!

Please notify Thore Edgren, Ch. at theman3@cox.net or 805 9674001 with your suggestions prior to the next meeting of the Special Events Committee on Aug. 6th @ 11:00 AM.

Last Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by our new President, Ron White.

Harold Englund played the piano for our rendering of the Star Spangled Banner and followed with a lovely invocation.

Punchbowl duty was performed by Paul Coyne; tickets for lunch were handled by John Burgee and Mike Cribbs.

Committee announcements consisted of David Kain reminding us that our annual dues are a little past due and that members are responding well of late.

Ron Singer provided status on the widening variety of golfing opportunities. Please note the re-instatement of the Monday and Wednesday informal 9-hole golf outings. Please note details in the "GOLF" section.

Speaker

James L. Armstrong, City Administrator — (intro by Dwight Coffin)
"Managing the City of Santa Barbara in Difficult Economic Times"
Jim Armstrong has one of the most vexing jobs in our City at this time of unprecedented financial challenge. A veteran of municipal management since 1977, with service to the cities of Fullerton, Anaheim and Hanford, Jim was appointed City Administrator of the City of Santa Barbara in October 2001. He holds an MPA from the University of Long Beach and is a UCLA Cum Laude graduate with a BA in Political Science and Psychology. Jim presented the panoply of financial challenges facing the city of Santa Barbara and, by association and extension, the state of California and the nation. Unlike the state's quagmire, Santa Barbara seems to have a viable of painful game plan to emerge intact at the expected end of this revenue shortfall cycle. Santa Barbara, like many California communities utilizes a Council-Manager form of governance. The council members delegate full responsibility to the City Manager who, with their deputation, performs the day-to-day management of all of the city's departments.

One aspect of maintaining a budget balance is that the most recent data available to the planners is more than three months old. For example, current decisions regarding where cuts must be made are based upon end of March data. These data suggest that there is a 17% shortfall in tax revenues from one year ago. Santa Barbara's transit-occupancy tax is down some 17-20% from 2008.

Responding to this emergency, Santa Barbara has cut salaries by 5% across-the-board, eliminated >40 positions, furloughed employees in planning and construction support functions, canceled paid travel and new vehicle acquisition, shortened hours for libraries and is implementing further actions designed to continue to reduce spending. Actions to increase revenue have been taken, as well. If you get a parking ticket or have a vehicle towed you will see the truth in this.

Another difficulty stems from the concomitant increase in the need for city funded activities in a recession. Parks and libraries

become busier and crime increases. It now appears likely that the state will be "borrowing" certain local tax monies to pay for unfunded bond issues, approved by the voters several years ago with a "no new taxes" promise.

What can we citizens do about this? Well, it is only natural to be angry and frustrated with our government, but, try to maintain a balanced view. He urges us to hold our elected representatives responsible. Become educated relative to what your elected representatives are doing. Are they doing the job they promised to do? Don't be drawn in by slick electioneering tactics. Look at the voting record and vote your conscience. Try to view the situation with a holistic approach as our representatives must. Most of us don't worry about an issue unless it is our "ox" being gored. It is much easier to blame someone else for our troubles. Voted into the state's constitution decades ago as a measure in self-defense against spiraling tax rates prop 13 has come under fire on an increasing basis. Mr. Armstrong suggested that it is at least in part responsible for inequities in the taxes paid by citizens living in our neighborhoods. This is a "hot-button" topic and will not be resolved anytime soon.

Another such topic that seems to represent an excellent example of conflict-of-interest is the power of public servant unions and the power they wield in our political process. These are the largest contributors to politicians' campaigns and command considerable influence in our representatives' behavior.

The money being spent on infrastructure construction projects cannot be diverted to any other purpose, so this work will continue. The work at the airport and the widening of certain streets are visible examples of this. And, we are reminded to not necessarily believe everything we read in the paper, especially on the editorial page. The school funding comes primarily from the state so local boards have to allocate funds in accordance with the state guidelines, not necessarily as they would wish.

Even with all of these challenges, Mr. Armstrong remains optimistic. He sees many bright and ambitious young people continuing to enter public service. More than half of the city's staff was directly involved with helping reduce the impact of the recent fires. Santa Barbara has an operating reserve of about 15% of its annual budget and the city is in good fiscal condition. There is continuing momentum for a California Constitutional Convention. Perhaps a solution can be found to stem the California Budget crisis.

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CRACKERS EDITOR HARD AT WORK

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