

Rotary  
District 5130



Building Bridges -  
Connecting Communities

Together, we build understanding,  
expand opportunities, and create *lasting change.*

# Monthly Newsletter

July 2026

District Governor Jeff Kolin



## District Governor's Message

### A New Rotary Year Begins

As July arrives, we begin a new Rotary year with gratitude, energy, and a renewed commitment to Service Above Self. District 5130 is strong because of the dedication of our clubs, the generosity of our members, and the leaders who continue to give their time, wisdom, and heart to Rotary.

We offer a special thank you to **Immediate Past District Governor Kristine Redko** for her outstanding leadership, encouragement, and steady service during the past year. Her commitment to our clubs and communities helped move District 5130 forward in meaningful ways.

I also extend deep appreciation to **Past District Governors Doug Johnson, Jim O'Grady, Tom Boylan, Jennifer Strong, Kathy Flamson, Maureen Merrill, Michael Fish, and Michael Juric** for their support and guidance as I prepared for my year as District Governor. Their leadership, friendship, and willingness to share their experience have been invaluable.

As we step into this new year together, let us celebrate what has been accomplished, support one another in the work ahead, and continue creating hope in our communities and around the world. As we set our goals for the upcoming year, let's be bold in our vision of what we can accomplish. Let Rotary ignite the passion in you that makes it rewarding and meaningful to join others in service. Most importantly, make it fun to be a Rotarian.

# News and Announcements



## NATURE'S JEWELS

Congratulations to Mark Campbell of the Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club for being one of the winners of Rotary Magazine's photo awards! The 2026 theme was The Extraordinary Ordinary, highlighting everyday life and community stories. Mark's photo captured the beauty and elegance of a spider web covered in morning dew. His shot was included in the June magazine and exhibited at the RI Convention.

## 2026 RYLA Camp Was a Success

"Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) wrapped up on Friday, June 12 at Westminster Woods. 80 campers from all over District 5130 spent five incredible days together. With the guidance of 18 counselors (all RYLA alumni and all properly vetted), these campers ripped up their cool cards, discovered the power of vulnerability, learned and invested more in what type of leader they want to be, and of course, HAD FUN. Many of the campers reflected that the RYLA dance (put on by the counselors) was better than any high school dance they attended. We'll take it! The following quotes were collected in a post-camp survey and explain the value of camp more than any recap could:

- "RYLA is a place where you get to be 100% yourself with no judgement. It is a place where everyone can feel connected and comfortable no matter what their story is. It is filled with people that very quickly become your family."
- "RYLA has been a place where you can connect with people outside of your circle, being regionally or socially. It's a place that challenges and helps improve your skills as a team but most importantly as a person. It's a place where you can learn from others who are different from yourself."
- "RYLA is a life changing leadership camp that helps you learn various things, such as financial aid information, communication, and overall skills of a leader through physical and mental activities."
- "I hope I am able to help others feel this effect in the future, it's one every person should experience. It doesn't only make you feel welcome, it helps you get over insecurities."

**RYLA campers went swimming for the first time in 15 years!**



*Story submitted by Cassie Pitkin, RYLA District Chair*

## True or False?

**“Polio eradication is Rotary’s #1 humanitarian project.”**

No doubt you’ve often heard this statement in the Rotary world.

Is it true or did someone just make that up?

You’ve probably also heard another often-asked question,

**“What’s next? What will Rotary take on after polio?”**

**Here’s what the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation say about these questions in the Rotary Foundation Code of Policies:**

32.010. Commitment to Global Polio Eradication as endorsed by Councils on Legislation: The global eradication of polio is, and must remain the **premier goal** of Rotary International and its Foundation until the world is certified as polio-free. The Trustees believe that it is premature, and to the detriment of polio eradication, to adopt any future global goal before certification. The potential distraction of Rotarians, the

undercutting of advocacy efforts, and the diminishment of Rotary's eradication efforts could be the consequence of any such adoption.

*June 2015 Trustees Mtg., Dec. 146 Source: April 1998 Trustees Mtg., Dec. 185. Amended by June 1998 Trustees Mtg., Dec. 21; June 2015 Trustees Mtg., Dec. 146.*

**So what's after Polio?...not sure. It depends on the Rotarians when that time comes. Ask that question then...no doubt it'll be significant. 😊**

*Story submitted by Bob Rogers, Polio District Chair*

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## District Leader Showcase - Jack Strange, DGE

I retired from teaching mathematics and science in 2024 after more than two decades in the classroom. It's one of the things I truly miss. But let's wind the clock back a bit. I was born and raised in Latin America, before moving to New York. Yes, I spoke Spanish before English but over the years it's gotten rusty.

I am a career-changer starting in "high tech," rising to the executive levels in companies such as Canon, Xerox and Autodesk, principally in the engineering software space. That's what brought me to Silicon Valley. Later, I got caught up in the dot com boom. I participated in three start-ups and decided not to do a fourth. That's when I chose to get my teaching credential and work with kids.

I credit my wife for introducing me to Rotary. Now a Rotarian for fifteen years, I was club president twice and was the charter advisor to an enormously successful Interact club that went on to participate in Rotary's first Program of Scale, fighting malaria in Lusaka, Zambia--the only Interact club to do so worldwide.

My passions include service to kids and the elderly. I love photography and cycling, and I have a black-belt in tae-kwon-do. My wife, Eloise, is a twenty-year Rotarian. She too is a past president and member of the Santa Rosa Sunrise club. We married Easter Sunday of 2009 in Florence, Italy.





**World Peace isn't Free...**

**...but it is Worth Every Penny!**

For the past five years, our annual Youth Exchange Golf Tournament has helped make international exchange opportunities accessible to students from all backgrounds. This fall marks our sixth year of investing in the next generation of global leaders and peace ambassadors.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and supporters, we have awarded more than \$52,000 in matching grant scholarships to outbound Youth Exchange students. These funds help ensure that financial barriers do not prevent deserving students from participating in life-changing cultural exchange experiences.



Tournament proceeds have also enabled us to reduce program and orientation costs to participating clubs by 18%, while enhancing the quality of training, educational materials, and support provided to students, host families, clubs, and Rotex volunteers.

Every sponsorship helps expand access, strengthen our program, and empower young people to build understanding across cultures. Together, we are investing in a future where friendship, service, and global citizenship create lasting peace.

Peace is often discussed as an ideal, but lasting peace is built through understanding, relationships, and shared experiences. For Rotary Youth Exchange students, that journey begins with an opportunity, one that should be available regardless of a family's financial circumstances.

**BECOME A SPONSOR!**



**YE5130.ORG/GOLF/**

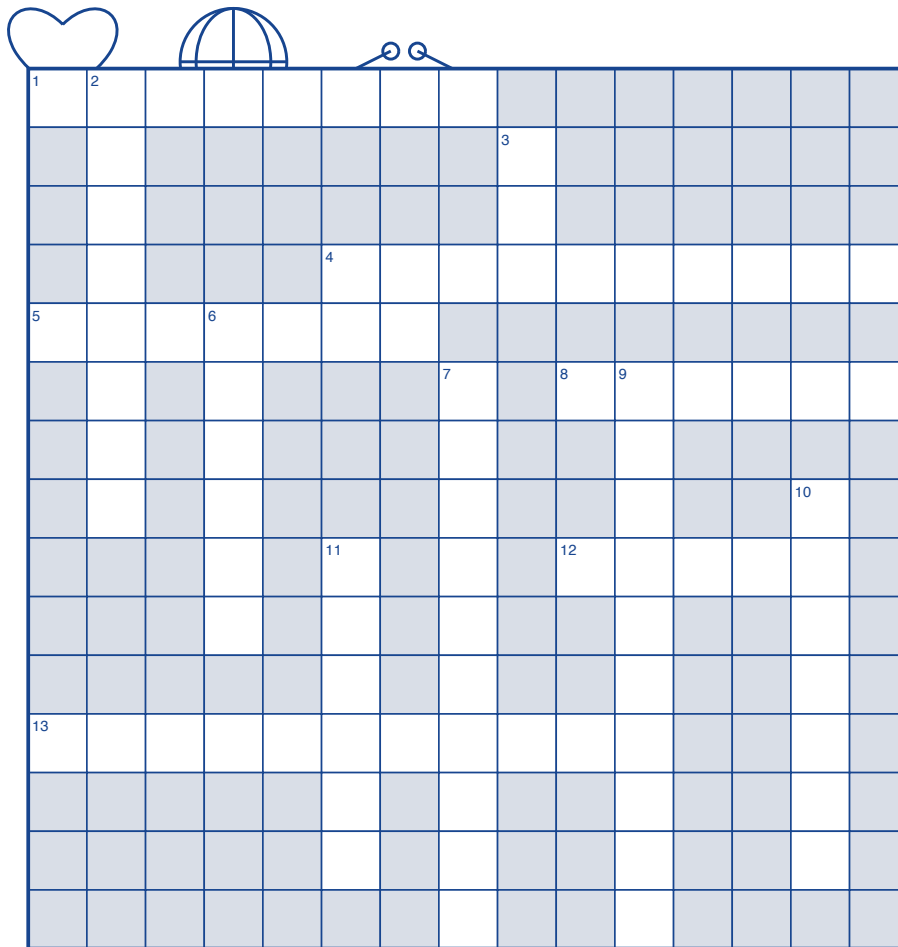


# Rotary District 5130 Crossword

Service, fellowship, membership, and impact



Fill one letter in each white square. Shaded squares are not used. Numbers mark the first square of each answer.



## Across

1. Organized efforts clubs use to meet real needs. (8)
4. The friendship and belonging that grow when Rotarians serve together. (10)
5. What Rotary builds between people, cultures, clubs, and communities. (7)
8. The positive change a well-planned project makes. (6)
12. Complete the Rotary motto: Service \_\_\_\_ Self. (5)
13. The neighborhoods and people Rotary clubs serve. (11)

## Down

2. Rotary's club option for young adults and emerging leaders. (8)
3. District 5130 succeeds when \_\_\_\_ clubs are invited into the work. (3)
6. A straight-ahead way to take action and get things done. (6)
7. What strong district leadership does with clubs, members, and resources. (10)
9. The people Rotary seeks to attract, retain, and engage. (10)
10. Rotary's everyday way of turning goodwill into action. (7)
11. Funds that help clubs turn good ideas into sustainable projects. (6)

## RI Foundation: Change Your News to Something Good

Every day, we hear news that can feel discouraging. That's why it helps to make room for good news, too. Rotary.org is a wonderful place to find it. You'll see uplifting stories, photos, and videos that show how Rotarians are working together to build peace and understanding at home and around the world. Log in often and take a look around. We could all use a daily dose of inspiration, right?

While you're there, consider helping create more good news. Click the Donate link, set up a Rotary Direct account, and choose a monthly or quarterly gift that supports peace and understanding. You can give to any fund, but please include the Annual Fund Share. Gifts to the Annual Fund Share and Endowment Fund Share are the only ones that return 50% of your contribution to our District. Those funds help provide matching support for District and Global Grants awarded to clubs in District 5130, expanding the impact of their projects. If we each take this simple step, together we can help build a safer, more peaceful world.

To sign in at <http://www.rotary.org/>, enter your registered email address and password to access your member dashboard.

If you don't have an account yet, it's easy to sign up. You'll need:

- **First and last name**, as they appear in the Rotary International database
- **Email address**, using the one Rotary or your local club has on file
- **Confirmation that you are 18 or older**
- **Rotary Membership ID**, which is optional but helpful for linking your account and can be found on the address label of *The Rotarian* magazine

If you have any trouble registering, talk with your club secretary or call the Rotary help line at (707) 866-976-8279.

*Story submitted by David Mark-Raymond, District Foundation Chair*

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## End Polio Now Torch Relay

Get ready to make Rotary history!

This October, Rotary District 5130 will unite clubs from across Northern California in a district-wide End Polio Now Torch Relay, culminating on World Polio Day, October 24, 2026.

The relay will begin with an Opening Ceremony hosted by the Rotary Club of Crescent City on October 2 and travel through communities across District 5130 before concluding in Petaluma on World Polio Day.

More than a relay, this is an opportunity to showcase Rotary in action, engage members, attract community participation, build public awareness, and demonstrate the collective impact of Rotary service.

Together, we can carry the torch, celebrate Rotary's extraordinary impact, and finish the job we began decades ago.

### **Torch Relay Route (Proposed):**

- Crescent City – Opening Ceremony (October 2)
- Humboldt County Clubs
- Mendocino County Clubs
- Lake County Clubs
- Napa County Clubs
- Sonoma County Clubs
- Petaluma – World Polio Day Celebration (October 24)

### **How Clubs Can Participate:**

- Host a Torch Handoff Ceremony
- Organize a Community Walk, Run, Ride, or Rally
- Invite Local Media and Community Leaders
- Raise Funds for Rotary's PolioPlus Program
- Engage Interact, Rotaract, and Youth Participants
- Share Photos and Stories on Social Media
- Promote Rotary's Role in Eradicating Polio

### **Save the Dates:**

- October 2, 2026 – Opening Ceremony in Crescent City
- October 24, 2026 – World Polio Day Celebration in Petaluma

Interested in serving as your club's Torch Relay Liaison or joining the District Planning Committee? Contact Renee McKenna of the Rotary Club of Petaluma Valley at [reneetmckenna@gmail.com](mailto:reneetmckenna@gmail.com) or 707-338-8950.

*Story submitted by Renee McKenna*

## **Newsletter Submissions Welcome**

Do you have interesting activities or events happening in your club or District committee? Is there something you'd like to see included in future newsletters? Send your ideas to Julie Montgomery at [julielovesrotary@gmail.com](mailto:julielovesrotary@gmail.com). They will be reviewed by District Governor Jeff Kolin. Stories are limited to 100 words, and accompanying photos are encouraged. Write your story in a Word document with the photos attached to the email separately (don't put the photos in the Word document). Content is due the last Monday of the month for inclusion in the following month. Thank you!

## **Upcoming Events**



## You're Invited!

**Join your fellow Sonoma County Rotary Club Presidents for a special visit to the Children's Museum of Sonoma County on Friday, August 14.**

The Children's Museum is one of Sonoma County's most valuable community resources, welcoming nearly 200,000 children and caregivers each year. Through hands-on exhibits and interactive experiences, the Museum inspires curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning.

Many Rotary leaders first experienced the Museum during last year's Dolly Parton Imagination Library press conference and were impressed by the impact it has on local children and families. As the Museum prepares to expand its campus and serve even more children, we hope more Rotary clubs will have the opportunity to learn about its work firsthand.

We invite you to visit, explore, and see how the Museum is enriching the lives of the children and families your clubs work so hard to support. We hope you can join us. It is an inspiring and eye-opening place.

**Friday, August 14th at 4:00**

**The Children's Museum of Sonoma County  
1835 W. Steele Lane, Santa Rosa**

**Discover how play becomes learning—and how learning becomes opportunity for Sonoma County's children.**



RSVP to Hal Kwalwasser  
hkwalwasser@aol.com

[www.CMOSC.org](http://www.CMOSC.org)



Rotary

District 5130



END  
POLIO  
NOW

TOGETHER, WE  
**END POLIO**  
FOR GOOD.

# WORLD POLIO DAY

OCTOBER 2-24, 2026

One Day. One World.

**A POLIO-FREE FUTURE.**



END  
POLIO  
NOW  
TORCH RELAY

DISTRICT 5130



OCTOBER 2, 2026

TO

OCTOBER 24, 2026



UNITE



ADVOCATE



DONATE



ERADICATE

Pass the Torch. Spread Hope. **End Polio Forever.**



BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT.  
**EVERY STEP BRINGS US CLOSER.**

#EndPolioNow

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Saturday,  
October 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Rotary**



**Youth  
Exchange**

**Foxtail North Golf Club**

**Sponsorships are Available!**

**Hole Sponsor \$250**

(display name/logo on T box/bunker)

**Putting Sponsor \$500**

(display name/logo in putting contest area)

**Registration Sponsor \$500**

(display name/logo at registration area)

**Driving Range Sponsor \$750**

(display name/logo on driving range)

**Golf Cart Sponsor \$1,000**

(display name/logo on each cart)

**Lunch Sponsor \$1,000**

(display name/logo on lunch box)

**Dinner Sponsor \$1000**

(display name/logo at dinner banquet)

**Bag Sponsor \$1,500**

(display name/logo on bag)

**Golf Towel Sponsor \$1,500**

(display name/logo on towel)

**Ball Sponsor \$1,500**

(display name/logo on golf ball)

**Insulated Metal Mugs Sponsor \$1,500**

(display name/logo on mug)

✉ Contact: Haider Ajina at  
golf@ye5130.org or  
707-499-6219

 Date: Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

 Time: 1:30 pm shotgun start

 Location: Foxtail North Golf Club  
100 Golf Course Drive  
Rohnert Park

Entry fee: \$200 per player

(Includes lunch & banquet dinner.  
Dinner guests \$48/each)

4-person teams, scramble format

Prizes for closest to the pin and  
accuracy drive

Putting contest entry: \$10 - \$50 prize  
for 1st place

Sweepstakes tickets: 5 for \$20  
to win golf rounds at top courses



Sign up at  
[ye5130.org/golf](http://ye5130.org/golf)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Rotary**  
District 5130



# *Lakeside Jam*



**BUILDING BRIDGES,**  
*Connecting Communities*

•  **MAY 7-9, 2027** •



**KONOCTI HARBOR**  
— RESORT —

*Kelseyville, CA*