



MARCH 13, 2025

Events

March 13th

Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: James Boggs
Subject: Brown v. Board of Education revisited

March 20th

Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Joshua Savage
Subject: Author of "Secret Bend, Oregon"

March 27th

Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Chris Kealey - CDO NeighborImpact
Subject: NeighborImpact

April 3rd

Monthly Club Business Meeting

April 10th

Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Nicole Ramos
Subject: Regional Economist

Birthdays

Jem Porro

March 16th

Dawn Ann Hudson

March 25th

Louise Sande Kaplan

March 25th

Debora Sepich

March 30th

Ryan Sale

This Week's Luncheon Meeting

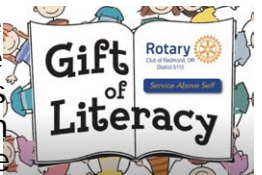
This week our guest speaker is **James Boggs**, CEO of **Spooler.fm**, a company that provides tools and services for creating interactive, dynamic, and personalized audio content for publishers. He will demonstrate the technology with a recreation of Supreme Court oral arguments in the 1952 court case, Brown vs Board of Education. **ADG Keever Henry** will be hosting the meeting while President Paul Spain returns from Uganda.

Please reply to: rotaryredmond@gmail.com if you are attending and let us know if you plan to invite a guest.

Greeters: Deb Simonsen, Bill Zettler, Ryan Sale ([Greeter instructions](#))

2025 Gift of Literacy

The books for the first-graders have been ordered, to be picked up next week, ready to assemble into the backpacks. A work party will meet at the Eagle Crest Falls clubhouse on Saturday, March 22nd, from 10:00 to noon with lunch to follow. Join in the fun with Service above Self.



Paul with RFE in Uganda



We're looking forward to Paul detailing his experience with that gorilla!!

Camp RYLA 2025

Camp RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is now accepting applications for the June 16 - 21 camp in Dorena Lake, OR. If you know a high school sophomore or junior student that may be interested, give them a copy of this [POSTER](#) and Dave Brenneman's contact info:

dandbbrenneman@gmail.com.

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April 4th
John Nielsen
April 9th



A Sisters Rotary Club request

Judy Corwin from the Sisters Rotary Club has partnered with the Dry Canyon Arts Association to explore the potential for a new Community Arts Center in Redmond. This center would provide valuable resources for local artists, offer art classes for all ages, and serve as a creative hub for the Central Oregon community. They invite you to participate in a brief survey that will help shape the vision and practicality of this project. Click here to participate: [SURVEY](#)

Weekly Member Profile



Rick Phelps made the cover of the March copy of RURALITE magazine, (wearing an OSU Beaver logo Hawaiian shirt) with an interview inside explaining the energy policy class he teaches at OSU-Cascades. The following is a reprint of the interesting magazine article for our weekly member profile.

Central Electric Cooperative member and retiree Rick Phelps teaches a course at Oregon State University-Cascades every spring. He finds it rewarding when his students take a keen interest in the subject and keep in touch to share their career successes in the energy field.

In 2017, Rick visited the campus and met Dr. Rebecca Webb, a senior instructor with the engineering program. After learning about Rick's professional and educational background, she asked if he wanted to teach a class. "I told her, I'm not the one to teach your electricity course, your technical courses," Rick says. "We started talking about the regulatory environment and what's happening in the energy space." She asked if I could teach that course. There was a catch: no textbook or guide existed, leaving Rick to create a course. Wanting to make students aware of the wide range of issues involving energy, he relied on case studies and outside speakers to bring real examples into the classroom. He believed the multifaceted exposure and student involvement would help equip future engineering in the field.



With that, a new energy regulation course was born, transforming a required course for the university's energy systems engineering degree. The curriculum aims to help students identify and become familiar with energy laws and regulations, and their impact on various issues, such as rate setting, transmission siting, climate change, energy, efficiency, and power purchase agreements.

In designing the course's content, the Indiana native drew from decades of experience in the private sector and the utility industry. Rick is a trained economist who graduated from the University of Texas with special honors and followed it with an MBA from Harvard University. Rick initially worked for Dole Foods before being recruited to McKenzie and Company, a leading worldwide consulting firm in Los Angeles.

Living in Pasadena, California, Rick, sought ways to get involved in the community. He volunteered to serve on a city planning committee. When Pasadena then mayor, Bill Bogart, learned Rick has done consulting work for an investor-owned

utility, he sent Rick a letter out of the blue, appointing him to the Pasadena Utilities advisory commission for Pasadena Water and Power, and not-for-profit community-owned utility founded in 1908. “I went onto the board of the utility and ended up serving a total of seven years, and three as chair.” Rick says. “I was just fascinated by the industry of public power. Looking at it more from a public community aspect and serving on the commission introduced me to the public power world.”

From there, Rick worked for Anaheim Public Utilities, conducting a management audit, where he studied utilities inside and out and proposed successful cost-cutting measures. He followed that with a successful effort to implement \$100 million in energy efficiency projects at Southern California Edison, an investor-owned utility. The program provided low-interest loans to customers to buy energy-efficient equipment for their homes.

Rick eventually took that experience to Mammoth, a mountain town in California, where he joined the nonprofit High Sierra Energy Foundation, which promotes energy efficiency in the region. Rick served as the executive Director and has sat on the organizational board since his retirement in 2017. Rick and his wife, Vicky, relocated to central Oregon in 2016. He looked again to get involved in the community ultimate leading him to OSU Cascades as a part-time instructor.

A key component of the energy regulation class is a case study Rick created, ‘Fish versus kilowatt-hours: Fact finding.’ It centers on a decades-long debate over the Columbia, rivers federal hydroelectric generation and whether it can coexist with fish. “I had this idea that the big issue was the fish and the energy and how this would be approached in the regulatory sense,” he says. “Students are assigned to take a position and teams to conduct independent research and develop the well-structured arguments, arguing for more fish or more energy, and then must present to a mock regulatory commission.”

Derek Hobden, a former student with a successful career in energy, saw value in the exercise. “I think what it made us do as students, is to think critically about how we structure an argument, so that we can have productive debate around topics that don’t really have a clear answer, right or wrong answer - a lot of great area” he says. “I think going through that process made us realize you have to have smart people who are capable of putting together these really formed opinions. We should expect that of anything that we do as engineers.”

Besides sharpening students' critical thinking, the assigned case study helps develop and hone their communication skills to make convincing and logical arguments backed by data. Rick relishes playing the regulatory commissioner. Looking for opportunities to poke holes in students’ arguments, and sometimes taking irrational positions, forcing the students to be prepared for anything. Rick hopes that when students complete the class, they are more aware of the myriad policies that one must deal with in a regulatory environment and get a taste of the complex regulatory process.

“The most rewarding part has been when you find a couple of students- or they find you-and they are really interested in the subject and want to talk about it and pursue it more,” he says. “That is really fun.”