



CYBER **Sudarshan**

Bulletin of  
**Rotary Club of Kalimpong**  
Rotary International District 3240



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July / August 2009

R. I. President : John Kenny

District Governor : Ajit Irom

President : Kamal Bajla

Secretary : Anukampa Subba

Editors : Bharat & Pravakar

## *Editorial*

Although RotaryKalimpong formally took off late this rotary year due to several unavoidable circumstances, President Kamal and his team have already taken the club activities galloping. Besides a smart installation ceremony of the club attended by the GOC 27 Mountain Division as chief guest and routine installation ceremonies of all the five Interact Clubs and one RCC; the Rotaract Club of Good Shepherd Institute of Hotel Management have recently joined our large family as partners in service.

Intense Board of Directors' meetings followed by several sittings of Membership Seminar Committee and two Club Assemblies paved the way for hosting quite a successful Sectional District 3240 Membership Seminar in Kalimpong on 29 August 2009, setting District 3240e\_group abuzz with a very healthy follow up discussion on the points raised in the seminar. August being Membership month, some of the valuable inputs are reproduced elsewhere in this bulletin.

Month of August saw devastating rainfall in and around Kalimpong after cyclone Aila in June. Hundreds of houses have been swept away by the torrents and mud-slips and rendered many unlivable. Members of RotaryKalimpong have alerted ShelterBox.org for immediate relief and as I type in this report, SRT (ShelterBox Response Team) volunteer Mr. Stuart Oates is on ground zero, to be joined by Rtn. PP Adrian Sumner, both from UK, for advance spot survey and are awaiting clearance for arranging delivery of the much needed shelter, warmth and dignity to the victims before the onset of cold winter.

## *President's Note*

It seems like only a short time ago when I first became interested in Rotary and being invited to join the Rotary Club of Kalimpong. With the encouragement of my family and good friends I look forward to a very successful year ahead. I am extremely proud to be an active member of this club. I like to describe myself as a driven personality and the Rotary value of service above self and the fellowship of the club have rewarded me and my son Tushar in so many ways.

My most important values for this year will be fun and friendship through leadership and contribution by my board with the help of the entire membership.

The past weeks have been very busy with various installations of Rotaract and Interact clubs. The enthusiasm shown by youths will leave most Rotarians spell bound. Thanks to our Rotaract and Interact Chairman PP Rtn. A.P. Lal for motivating young people with a mission in life.

August being dedicated as the Membership month, we can proudly shout at the top of our voices, that YES we have successfully hosted the Sectional District 3240 Membership Seminar amidst bad weather conditions, road blocks, etc. But sincere work does pay at last. Thanks to Seminar Chairman PP Rtn. Pravakar Dewan and hard work by all fellow members, an extraordinary example of true team spirit shown by all.

**Editor's**

**Rtn. Kamal Bajla**  
President

## Vive le Rotary

I must congratulate RC Kalimpong for the impeccable show that they put up. I could not resist but share my experience of the seminar with you. At the outset, I have to admit that it was for the first time that I actually sat through for six and a half hours in a Rotary function without the faintest trace of boredom and monotony. I am pretty notorious for going on a shopping spree in the midst of a program.

But this time it was different. I always thought that I did not have patience to listen to somebody's senseless ramblings for more than a few minutes but this time it was so engaging that I secretly wished some of the speakers would speak endlessly.

My heart swelled with pride when we sang Vive le Rotary. The song was a celebration of the spirit and essence of Rotary. The topics which were discussed and deliberated upon were very very enlightening for everyone. It was a refresher course for the old members while an informative one for the not old ones. We really needed an event like this. I must also add that the speakers were incredible. Each one spoke with so much of faith and conviction that after some time my conscience started to hurt because of the fact that I, like most others, take Rotary for granted. But when we encounter such stalwarts, we realize the value, significance and pride that comes being a part of Rotary. The talks given by Rtn. Manoj Desai, Mr. David Fonning, Rtn. Himesh Mukherjee and others has inspired me to actually put service above self in letter and spirit. The debate was the icing on the cake. Kudos to Kalimpong team for the wonderful job. They have once again proved that with dedication, team work and a little bit of fun, you can make 140+ Rotarians from all over the district attend a seminar in the midst of Indian monsoon! I am sure that everyone will agree with me that the seminar was a grand success. It made us think, it made us contemplate but most importantly it was a SWOT analysis for all Clubs. It made us realize that the Future of Rotary is indeed in Our Hands. We just need to join hands.

My best wishes to RotaryKalimpong and its members for all their future endeavors.

Yours in Rotary,

**Rtn. Jashoda Chettri**  
RC Gangtok South



## District Membership Seminar - Kalimpong

*(From Dist3240e\_group)*

[This is no match reporting. In fact this is as far from any sort of reporting or journalism as the Earth is from Jupiter. I shall not go into the details of the programme (I had been waiting to get a glimpse of report from others over the last two days, but stand disappointed), but will give you my impression only. Friend Bharat had asked me to give a bit of write up and here am I responding to his request.]

The hills in the monsoon has an untamed beauty of its own. It is the time when green is really green, days are cloudy or mischievously misty, and nights sombre and silent - a silence steadily broken by pelting raindrops beating a tattoo on some lonely tin-roof. I love it. Perhaps this, together with my love for Rotary drew me towards Kalimpong.

### The Seminar :

Kalimpong, over a long time has built up a reputation of Punctuality and this Seminar was no exception. Opening Session began at 2.00 pm on the dot, as announced in the programme and we were left stranded with unfinished plates. Refrains of the National Anthem and melodious opening songs drifted down to the dining area, prompting us to hurry through the rest of the sumptuous lunch as quickly as possible.

Every District Governor has his/her own style of speaking. What I like about our present Governor is his down-to-earth, no-nonsense style, and Governor Ajit did not disappoint me while elaborating on the purpose of the Seminar. This of course followed the official inauguration and Welcome Address by friend, PP Rtn. Pravakar.

The star of the show was undoubtedly the Chief Guest, RRMCC PDG Dr. Manoj Desai. I have heard him speak on different subjects, on several occasions, and everytime he appears to surpass himself. With brilliant oratory and wry humour, he drove home hard facts and harsh truth, unerringly pointing out areas where we could have done better. By the way, the Chief Guest was introduced by PP Rtn. Ganesh Mani Pradhan. Introductions are generally dry, boring pieces of essential commodities which even the intruders abhor and tend to rush through. But Rtn. Ganesh Mani's introduction of the RRMCC was a fine example of Public Speaking at its best.

When PDG Udai Mani Pradhan moderates a

session, it becomes something worth listening to. When that sessions boasts of such speakers as PDG Kirti da, PP Dilip da (Asansol Greater), PP Jiwan da (Siliguri), and PP Yogesh (Gangtok), it escalates into something sublime. Kirti da with TRF - we are acquainted with. But Kirti da on Membership Issues was simply great. His presentation was mind blowing.

PP Himesh da (Siliguri) explained why he is in Rotary for long 15 years. He spoke straight from his heart.

Now I come to the most interesting and the most controversial item on the programme, "Why I left Rotary" and the speaker was Past Rotarian PP David Foning (PHF), who had left Rotary after 10 long years of membership. To my mind our District Leadership has shown a great deal of maturity in including this subject, perhaps for the first time, in the District Membership Seminar. I understand that the subject had also found a place at the other Sectional District Membership Seminar at Sibsagar, this year. Every year, at Membership Seminars we pat our own backs, discuss about mentoring, hammer about Retention, Recruitment, Extension, till the audience almosts faints with fatigue and go home happily thereafter mightily pleased with ourselves that we have done something for Rotary and for our District, while Membership figures keep hovering around 1.2 million worldwide - a figure that is hard to forget through long usage even though we may forget our own Anniversary Dates. We had to hear where we had slipped up and take lessons from what we hear. But, of course, that is my opinion. Many Rotarians thought otherwise.

Anyway, coming back to the subject at hand – Past Rotarian Mr. Foning was eloquent. He gave his reasons for leaving Rotary in no uncertain terms. His eloquence served a warning - never take any Rotarian for granted, even though he has been around for a decade or so and had been a PP and a PHF to boot, and always think twice before putting such a personality on the podium - he is very likely to land a body-blow to where it hurts most. But Rotarians are gentlemen and like true gentlemen showered gentlemanly applause upon him when he finished. His candour was indeed admirable. But, my friends, what did we learn from him? We learnt about his reasons for leaving Rotary - fine enough. But these reasons were his and his alone. They were absolutely personal. If I ever leave Rotary it would be for different reasons altogether! We can never generalize or take lessons for future from such individualistic accounts. Mr Foning

gave vent to his pent up emotions and will probably sleep better at nights from now on. But my friends, did the Kalimpong Rotarians, whom I have always held in such high esteem, did they deserve it? Did our District Leaders deserve it all? Did we deserve it? But still, I congratulate the District Leaders for including such a subject. It shows the good intention of inviting constructive criticism for our future betterment. It is not their fault that things got a bit sour.

The Panel Discussion on "Ways and Means to Reduce Club Dues to Attract New Members" followed the well deserved comfort break and it was gratifying to see a near capacity audience so late in the day. I happened to serve as a Panelist, together with PP Amar Singh Rai (Darjeeling) and AG Dr. Subrata Ghosh (Gushkara). This session was moderated by the DG himself. Floor participation was spirited and PDG Kirti da and PDG Manoj Desai fielded most of the flak. The session was interesting, although revealed little that was new or innovative.

Here I must stop to apologize, especially to the speakers and moderators who followed - and there was a galaxy of them out there, believe me, because I had left as I was deadbeat. (We had been running around ever since being unceremoniously dropped on the NJP platform at 3.10 am).

So far so good. But the spirit at the Fellowship Dinner was about as lively as that of a polar bear in winter. We sorely missed a rollicking live band. The food was excellent, though. I personally took care of about two dozen "Jilepi"s.

Anyway, it was a great Seminar and I thank the Kalimpong Rotarians headed by President Kamal and Seminar Chair PP Pravakar, for having organized a good show. Oh yes, I almost forgot to tell you - I heard that attendance was something around 140 - not too bad, I think. :)

**Rtn. Dr. Sayantan Gupta**  
**PP, RC Malda Central**

*(To be continued)*



Attendance Report for August, 2009

## 100%ers Gallery

Mahendra Agarwal

Kamal Bajla

Indira Bose

Mukesh Changia

Sanjay Das

Pravakar Dewan

Vikash Golyan

Sumit Jindal

Deo Prakash Pandey

Bharat Mani Pradhan

K.N.Pradhan

Tapan Kumar Pradhan

Rajen Raghavan

Catherine Samling

Amar Nath Sood

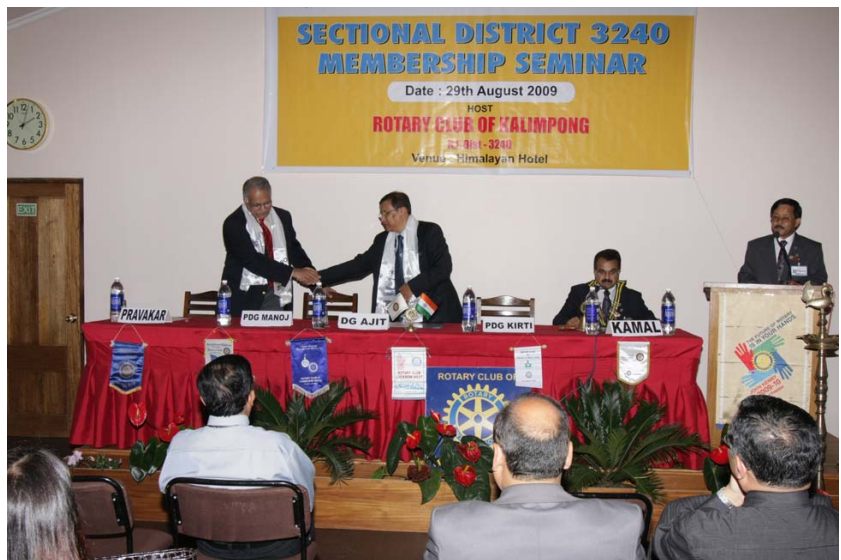
Sanjogita Subba

Dr. Yohan Tasho

A.K. Zimba



**Chief Guest PDG Manoj Desai lights the lamp**



**At the dot of 2.**

**Average Attendance : 74.5%**

### Birthday Greetings to :-

R'Anne Seema Soni – 5<sup>th</sup> August

Rtn. Kamal Bajla – 14<sup>th</sup> August

Mr. Tsewang – 17<sup>th</sup> August

R'Anne Pampha Zimba – 19<sup>th</sup> August

### Anniversary Greetings to :-

C.P Rtn. Dr. M.S. Foning  
& R'Anne Stella Foning – 20<sup>th</sup> August



**Business Session**

**We Meet at  
Rotary Centre, Kalimpong  
Every THURSDAY  
at 5:00 p.m.**

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