



CANADIAN CLUB OF THE DESERT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII

February 2011

No. 2

March Breakfast Meeting



JIM SHERB
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
CANADIAN SNOWBIRDS
ASSOCIATION

How many times have you been called a 'Snowbird'? How many of you actually belong to the Association? What are the benefits of being a 'member' of the CSA?

The CSA has existed since 1992 and simply stated 'it is a national not-for-profit advocacy organization dedicated to actively defending and improving the rights of Canadian travelers'

Jim Sherb - a resident of Kamloops, British Columbia, has been an active director of the CSA for more than ten years. He has spent a lifetime in forest management matters in British Columbia.

Jim is an active member and 'hike leader' of the Desert Trails Association in Palm Desert, and an excellent person to speak to those of us here in the Coachella Valley.

Here is a session that you don't want to miss - bring your travel related questions - more is happening all across Canada than most of us realize!

Wind up Dinner – New Date Tuesday, March 22, 2011



Please note that this function is on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 and not on March 21 as previously advertised.

There has been a substantial upgrade to the dining areas of Desert Willow - a must see improvement. The Social hour starts at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6:30. An addition to our previous year's programme will be musical entertainment during dinner.

The cost to members will be \$50.00 each and \$60.00 for non-members. Mail your cheques (checks) to P. O. Box 284, Cathedral City, CA 92235 or alternatively make your payment at the March 11, 2011 breakfast meeting. It will be an evening you will not forget!

Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 26, 2011
Regan Library and Air Force One
Simi Valley, CA

Friday, March 11, 2011
BREAKFAST MEETING,
Speaker: Jim Sherb

Tuesday, March 22, 2011
WIND-UP DINNER
Desert Willow Golf Club

Breakfast Meetings are held at 7:45 am, at Desert Falls Country Club, Country Club near Cook St., Palm Desert.

Breakfast Reservations: 341-3367 or 346-0510 Members \$15 US, Non-Members \$20 US Cash or Cheque drawn on a U.S. account only.

February Speaker



Edwin Deas

Our February breakfast guest speaker, Dr. Edwin Deas, presented an extremely interesting profile of the future of the College of the Desert, which now serves about 12,000 students taking 35,000 classes.

A native of Edinburgh, Scotland he and his wife Bronwyn moved to British Columbia in 1982 where he became Vice President of Administration of Vancouver Island University. They moved to San Diego some 26 years later then moved to the College of the Desert where he became the Vice President of Business Affairs.

In 2004 the Coachella Valley citizens approved a special bond measure of \$346 Million to fund projects to train local residents for jobs, to prepare students for four years of college and to increase student enrolment at the College of the Desert. Specific priorities include:

- Expanding nursing, police and fire fighting teaching facilities
- Upgrading and adding computer technology class rooms

- Repairing, acquiring, constructing and equipping buildings, class rooms and sites
- Acquiring sites and developing facilities in the eastern and western valley.

Dr. Deas described very many exciting concepts being developed for the college. Plans are well underway for the satellite campuses in Old Town Indio, an East Valley campus in Mecca-Thermal and a West Valley campus in Palm Springs at the NE corner of Indian Canyon and Tramview.

These forward looking and exciting projects would include commercially-operated businesses that will also serve for training, research and development, development of clean technologies. In Palm Springs a 60/70 acre site - a 'green park' will feature sustainable energy generating systems and research, development and teaching programs.

Emphasis will be on training local students for local needs in hospitality, tourism, media arts, health, waste management, water conservation, energy efficiency and reduction, including hands-on experience with commercial counterparts.

Dr. Deas' encyclopaedic knowledge and boundless enthusiasm guarantee the success of these pioneering and important programs. Our thanks to Dr. Deas for a most stimulating morning.

Wind Generators Sightseeing Tour

A great day for the 60 participants, 42 of whom were members of the Canadian Club of the Desert, to travel into the Coachella Valley to directly view the extent of the use of wind power in this area of California.



To fully understand the magnitude of the development, we were fortunate to have an extremely knowledgeable tour guide to provide the necessary commentary - Melody Winston of 'Palm Springs Tours & More'.

First, we had to understand that the use of wind power as a utility goes back many centuries; possibly the Egyptians were the first in using wind power to grind their grain into flour.

Starting in the early 1980's as a person drove through the area they started to see a forest of windmills- there is no accurate count of how many actually were installed but it easily aggregated 5,000 or more. Over the more recent years, the number has decreased substantially to about 2,600 units - and yet the production of electrical energy has been increased to a great extent.

A few operational aspects of the area to which we were introduced can be summarized as follows:

- Power can actually be produced 24 hours a day
- It takes 8/12 miles per hour of wind to get the blades to turn.
- California is the third largest wind turbine producer of electrical energy in the USA, Texas being No.1 and Iowa No. 2.
- Kansas and Montana are taking serious steps to the use of wind for energy production.

A very special stop on the tour was to meet with two representatives of a large international energy company, Rodney LaFear and Scott Curry. They now manage eight towers, each has a 'hub height' of 262 feet (just picture a 20 story building) and a rotor diameter of 314 feet. Previously there were 139 smaller units that were installed many years ago.

Climbing to the top of the new towers for service work is a chore but there is a lift in each tower that can handle more than 600 pounds of supplies. To make even further changes to their system they are well underway to establish solar panels at the base of the eight towers - energy from the wind and now energy from the sun; you can imagine how these two facets of energy production are compatible with each other.

Power from the wind turbines is sold under long term contracts to Southern California Edison.

Unanimous agreement – a very well organized day by Stan Davison - a director of the Canadian Club.

Palm Springs Air Museum RCAF Day



Saturday, March 12, 2011 will be RCAF Day at the Palm Springs Air Museum, with a full program recognizing the contributions of the 'RCAF' in the Second World War.

The Museum opens at 10:00AM, a "Pre-Program" at 11:00, with the official opening at 1:00PM and the singing of "O Canada".

There will be a number of Canadian aircraft participating in the flight exhibition.

Canadian Club members attending will pay \$5.00 less than others (normal charge would be \$14.00) - if you tell them of your membership!

Weather permitting - this will be a great day.

2011 Golf Tournament

It was a balmy day and good turnout this year for the tournament at the Palm Valley Country Club, with 56 registered players.

With a score of 71, the "Howard Harem" – Betty Beaton, Wendy Fay, Cathy Ziehr and Dave Howard were the clear winners. No other team was close.

The Canadian Club Of The Desert Trophy will duly record their victory.

Five additional guests joined the golfers for a great buffet dinner in a Valentines-Day decorated dining room. Special thanks to Glad Ledingham and Pat Anderson for all the decorating.

Thanks also to Betty Stein, Brian Ledingham, Dave Anderson and the staff at Palm Valley for organizing a successful and enjoyable day.



Photo Courtesy - Palm Desert News Bureau

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Canadian Club of the Desert
P.O. Box 284
Cathedral City, CA, 92235

