



Bingo: Steve D'Avria

Prayer/Pledge: Mike Lands

Health & Happiness: Joel Long

Sgt.-at-Arms: Ed Jackson

Welcome to our January 8th 2018 meeting Happy New Year!



Mark Cramer

A Catalyst for Action Driving Results (GGDC)

January Birthdays

Craig Kluttz – 16
Ash Smith – 18
Alan Cloninger – 19
Kent Huggins – 28



January Club Anniversaries (Years)

Alan Cloninger	21
Luke Ellington	23
David Fogarty	11
Kent Huggins	27
Joel Long	23



Gastonia East Board Members

Morgan Rhoney, President	Jennifer Purdee, Sargent-at-Arms	Lindsay Nelson, Membership
Page Morgan, President Elect	Julia Allen, Service Chair	Barry Wright & Mike Stanforth, Rotary Foundation
Jason Ramey, Secretary	Chris McCallister, Interact Chair	Kelly Morris, International Service
Steve D'Avria, Treasurer	John Pea, Club Programs Chair	Pet Sumner, Bulletin Editor
Sonya McGraw, Immediate Past President		

Upcoming Events:

Monday – January 15th – MLK Holiday – No Meeting

Monday – January 22nd – Board Meeting (11:30 am), Club Assembly (Regular Meeting)

Monday – January 29th – John Trump, Author of Still & Barrel: Craft Spirits in the Old North State (Regular Meeting)

Monday – February 5th – (Regular Meeting)

Rotary members from Durango, Colorado, USA, team with the Navajo Nation to bring solar lights to remote, off-the-grid homes on the country's largest Native American reservation. **By: Kate Sieber**

After decades of crafting squash-blossom necklaces, pendants, and bracelets, Jerry Domingo knew he would have to quit making jewelry, because he couldn't see very well anymore.

Navajo like Jerry Domingo are caught in isolated pockets of land, which are called The Checkerboard.

A sturdy Navajo grandfather, silversmith, and revivalist preacher, Domingo lives in a one-room house smaller than a single-car garage in the windswept sagebrush desert near Nageezi, New Mexico.

His home is mere miles from the picturesque badlands Georgia O'Keefe painted and Dzilth Na-o Dithle, the sacred portal where the Navajo believe the first people came out of the earth. But it's a long distance from all that the modern world seems to promise — grocery stores, jobs, medical care. Domingo's home is new. It has unpainted walls, plywood floors, and a wood stove but no insulation or electricity.

In a twist to his story, electric lines traverse the land just a few hundred yards from Domingo's front door, but with all of the permissions and work required by the utility, it would cost more than \$30,000 to connect to the power.

Domingo, who has pewter hair and a broad, calm face, first started making jewelry in the 1970s, when he went to work in his uncle's shop. Over the years, he honed his craft, and customers started to come to him to commission works.

Now he sells his wares when he travels to preach all over the reservation. But with his failing eyesight, it has been getting harder to do the detailed work. After all, it takes a good four days to make a full squash-blossom necklace.

Jerry Domingo creates jewelry by the light of a window in his home in The Checkerboard.

Ben Fredman

At night, the glow of kerosene lamps is too dim. Even during the day, the home's interior is full of shadows, making it difficult to tease, hammer, and solder metal into art.

"When I do silverworking, I have to wait until the sun comes through the window," said Domingo, wearing a thick Dallas Cowboys sweatshirt to insulate himself against the chill and large turquoise rings on his fingers, as he worked on a necklace more than a year ago. "I can't really know what I'm doing when it's dark in here. It would make a whole lot of difference just to not be in the dark."

Through a pastor at a local church, Domingo found out about a program through a Rotary club in Durango, Colorado, USA, that brings solar-powered lighting to remote homes on the Navajo reservation.

A solar light is a simple thing: just a small panel the size of a baking sheet, which mounts onto a roof with a pole. A wire runs from the panel into the house, where up to three rechargeable lights hang from hooks on the ceiling. To turn on the lights, Domingo simply has to touch a button.

To use the light as a flashlight for going outside at night, he simply unhooks it. A fully charged lamp offers dim light for 75 hours or bright light for 7½ before needing to be recharged.

But in this house, a light is more than a simple thing. It brings a world of possibility.

To read more visit: myrotary.org



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