

**2011-2012
Leadership
Team**



Boulder City Sunrise Rotary

“Reach within to Embrace Humanity “

The Rotary Wheel September 1st, 2011

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History of Wurstfest by Rich Baughman

This week, I decided it would be timely to do the newsletter on the History of Wurstfest. I have heard many of the stories but thought who better to put it all together for us then Rich Baughman. The following is his story.....

Rich says,“ I will do my best with what memory I have left. I believe it started in 1990 and at that time it was the Hydro-Hop and it was a two day event at the same location we are at now and it was in conjunction with the Hydro-Plane races at Lake Mead. At that time all we had was the same food we still serve including beer, pop and water. We had music at night in the Gazebo. At that time we would usually let Roger find the music (from the Backstop) but later fired him from that as the music was terrible. So, we started out with bad music, burnt brats and a Friday and Saturday event that made about \$1500.00. Keep in mind there was no car show, auction or kiddy rides. This went on for two years and the Hydro-Planes stopped coming to Lake Mead. We had to come up with another name so Dean Molberg suggested the Vettefest as he had a corvette at the time and tried to get some of the local car clubs involved. We felt the Vettefest was not what we were looking for so the next year we started calling it Oktoberfest but Roger said we couldn't have an Oktoberfest in September so the next year we moved the date to the week after Art in the Park so it would be a true Oktoberfest. We soon found out that the weather was too unpredictable at that time of month so the following year we moved it back to the week before Art in the Park. Roger wanted to leave it in October because he was raised in Germany and said it wouldn't be a true Oktoberfest if it were held in September. So again, Roger was overruled but we changed the name again to Fallfest to appease Roger. Slight changes were made every year but it was still a two day event that didn't raise very much money and was a lot of work. A bunch of us were brainstorming trying to figure out how to make the event more profitable when Ginny Gottfredson, who was a member of the club at that time, came up with the name Wurstfest and that is what it has been ever since. We started doing night street dances and working on car shows but we weren't allowed to park the cars on the grass. It was during Doug's presidency that we made major changes. Doug went to Lake Arrowhead, Ca for a Rotary event and saw that their club did an annual auction. He brought this information before our board and we decided to try to incorporate the auction in our Wurstfest and make it a one day event. The first year was far from successful. I believe we made about \$2500.00 and our auction items left a lot to be desired (Teddy Fenton donated a very used toaster). I can't remember how Doug and I became the auctioneers. I think it was a process of elimination as no one else wanted the job. We wanted to keep Wurstfest strictly a Sunrise Rotary event with no outside vendors and for the most part I believe we succeeded. Since then it has grown into the event we have today and each year we tweak it a little to try to keep improving on a successful event This year we are making some major changes, all the music will be different, cry baby, Doug, finally got his country western band and for the first time we are bringing in a couple of outside vendors for desert type food. Spread the word, the event is only successful if we get people there!”

There is no way I could have written anything that could hold a candle to Rich's walk down memory lane so I would like to thank Rich so much for this weeks newsletter. Until next week, GGG!!!

