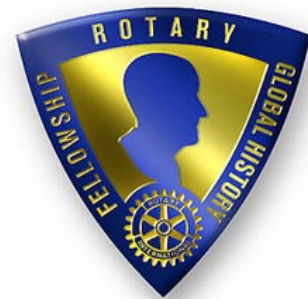




## Global Networking Groups of Rotary Jack Selway



A Rotary program for understanding "Fellowships." For all Rotarians to use to explain the value of Fellowships and RAGS (Rotary Action Groups).



By Jack M. B. Selway,  
Founder of  
Rotary Global History Fellowship ([www.rghf.org](http://www.rghf.org))

---

Most everyone has some understanding of "fellowship." It's what we do at our meetings, whether Rotary or meeting someone for coffee, or working on a project. Today in Rotary, there exist two groups of Rotarian activities under the leading of Global Networking Groups. The Rotary Global History Fellowship (RGHF) has the entire story at <http://www.globalnetworkinggroups.org> for those interested in studying the entire subject.

But, let's start at the beginning, shall we? There's nothing better than a like-minded group of Rotarians, whether it be antique car enthusiasts or wine lovers. So, it was natural that some yachting Rotarians founded the [Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians](#), back in 1947, claiming the position as the first "fellowship."



RI, though, says that the [Esperanto Fellowship](#) was first, back in 1928.



So back to "Fellowship" in Rotary. Today, there are about 100 groups that enjoy the company of each other in similar activities. You can find them all listed at <http://www.fellowshiphistory.org>.



Love canoes? Then [this fellowship](#) (the International Fellowship of Canoeing Rotarians) is for you.

The first group to band together on the internet was ICUFR, or the [International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians](#).





The ICUFR was soon followed by ROTI, [Rotarians on the Internet](#). ROTI had its first real chance to make a major change in the Rotary World when future RI president Frank Devlyn spent time at the ROTI booth learning about the unlimited potential of the Internet and the value it could be to Rotary

International in improved communications and time and cost savings. When he became Rotary International President in 2000-01, Frank called on ROTI members to assist him in creating a major internet presence in every club and District in the Rotary world. That changed the way that all communications between Rotary International and Rotary clubs and Districts, so that everything that used to be handled by snail mail is now conducted through the Internet (this and other descriptions from [www.rotaryfirst100.org](http://www.rotaryfirst100.org)).



Perhaps not for the faint of heart is the fellowship for cycling. In 1984 the Rotary Club of Herentals in Belgium as a fund raising activity organized the first World Rotary Cycling Championships. The club organized the races again in 1985 and 1986 but then decided that the effort was too much for a single club. Some Belgian and Dutch

participants to the races got together in 1988 and decided to establish a Rotary Fellowship. The International Fellowship [Cycling to Serve](#) was ratified in that year by Evanston.

Here's a fun group with heart: the [Doll Lovers Fellowship](#)! While dolls and toys are partners in growth for children, they also remain a popular item of nostalgia for adults to take a trip down a memory lane of their own childhood days. After stamps and coins, dolls represent the favorite collectible.



Anyone getting hungry? If you go to the page for the [World Fellowship of Rotarian Gourmets](#), you'll find plenty of information about foodies who serve, with the next page as a glimpse (if the text is too small, try the '+' and '-' zoom/view controls if you have them):



# The world fellowship of **ROTARIAN GOURMETS**

Email: [rotarygourmet@shaw.ca](mailto:rotarygourmet@shaw.ca) Website: <http://rotarygourmet.com>  
Phone 604-231-9533 Fax: 604-273-9855  
7260 No 4 Road, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2T3

Welcome to the *World Fellowship of Rotarian Gourmets*, started by a few members of the Rotary Clubs of Richmond, Ladner and Burnaby, B.C., and chartered by Rotary International in 1991,



Getting started.....

1. First invite a few Rotarians, their spouses, ex-Rotarians from two or more of neighboring clubs, to an informal get together at your home. (*Widows/widowers/former Rotary-Annes- what better way to keep former members in touch with Rotary! They may even return to the coop!*) Let everyone bring a dish or hors d'oeuvres or perhaps plan a BBQ.
2. Once they have all committed themselves to being part of this great Fellowship, plan your next dinner menu from a particular country. Dinners may be held as often as you may wish- once a month, every 2 months whatever suits your taste - no pun intended! Every effort should be made to demonstrate the preparation of at least one dish at your dinner venue.
3. Next, send a list of your members along with a one-time membership fee of \$25.00 Canadian Funds or \$20.00 U.S. Funds for your aprons, Gourmet pins plus a copy of our constitution.



As a fellow 'Gourmet' you are welcome to attend any dinner being held by any Chapter during your travels to other countries and cities.



You will then become the latest Chapter in our Fellowship:

- Richmond: Penticton: Arbutus: Vancouver Westside: Houston Texas:
- Port of Spain Trinidad

Former Chapters included Australia, Turkey, and Washington. (They lost steam!)

*CHEERS!*



Okay, you get the idea. These are people having fun, sharing a common interest, and they are all Rotarians. The fellowships even have a newsletter. It's called the "Fellowship Advancer," and the most recent and archives [are found here](#).

## ROTARIAN ACTION GROUPS

On July 1, 2006, Rotary International decided that a new kind of group was needed. They are called Rotarian Action Groups, and the history is at [www.actiongrouphistory.org](http://www.actiongrouphistory.org). There are some serious subjects here, but still you find Rotarians enjoying fellowship:

World Health Fairs - A Rotarian Action Group

Global Network for Blood Donation - A Rotarian Action Group

Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group

Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development

Disaster Relief - A Rotarian Action Group

Polio Survivors & Associates - Rotarian Action Group

Rotary Diabetes Action Group

Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention

Rotarians for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness

Rotarians for Fighting AIDS

Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition

Rotarians for Mine Action

Rotarian Action Group of Dental Volunteers

Rotary Action Group for Microcredit

Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration

Rotarians Eliminating Malaria

Humanitarian Service Rotarian Action Group

Rotarians for the Prevention of Drug Abuse

## ABOUT THIS PROGRAM AND OTHER "HISTORY" FELLOWSHIPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The RGHF section on Fellowships was created by Jack M. B. Selway, Founder and CEO, Rotary Global History Fellowship, Member of Rotary eClub of the Southwest, USA



RGHF, an internet history fellowship, was preceded by RHHIF, Rotary Heritage & History International Fellowship.



This fellowship (RHHIF) was responsible for "saving" [Room 711](#), now preserved at the RI headquarters and from this came the effort to save the home of Paul Harris, which now has its [own foundation](#).

Today, one of our RGHF webmasters maintains the Paul Harris home website, and the recent Council on Legislation has asked the RI board to support the effort of the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation to preserve the Harris home, called "Comely Bank." RGHF also provides the website for [RHHIF](#) and [Room 711](#), in addition to sites for the [Harris office](#) at RI and the [Harris memorial](#).

Our fellowship will celebrate 10 years this October at a three-day event in Chicago. Those attending will tour Room 711, Paul's house, the cemetery, Paul's office, and RI headquarters, as well as enjoy three wonderful dinner events and lunch with the Rotary Club of Chicago. Find out more at: <http://www.rghf101010.org>

Today, RGHF is one of the larger fellowships, with nearly 600 members, 11,000 subscribers, and about 1,000,000 annual visitors. Enjoy Rotary by joining a fellowship of Rotarians. See <http://www.rotaryfellowships.org> for more from Rotary International.