

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
August/September 2013

KBAS General Meeting:

Thursday, September 12, 6:30 p.m. Birding Opportunities in the Basin during Fall Migration

The September 12 meeting of Klamath Basin Audubon will be featuring the birding opportunities in our area for the fall season by a panel of local expert birders. Fall includes birds of the Pacific Flyway, many summer birds and the year-around resident birds found in the diverse habitats of our area. Slides of birds, with an Emphasis on their identifying features, will be presented. An opportunity will be available to have one-on-one or small group information on how to know birds. Whether you are a beginning or an experienced birder we invite you to join us for the kickoff of the year with Klamath Basin Audubon.



President's Message *. . . Molly Russell*

Let me start by telling you a little about me. I moved to the Klamath Basin 6 years ago from Spokane WA to be closer to my family in retirement. My accounting background led me to working part time and volun-teering for several non-profits working on restoration and education. That led to becoming Registrar for Winter Wings and a board member of KBAS.

I want to welcome our new board members and thank them for committing their time and expertise. I appreciate all our board members and committee chairs and look forward to working with all of you. I will be working to expand our committees to more than one person. We are always looking for members to get involved whether it is one time or continuous. I will be sharing ideas on how to contribute and hopefully one or more of those will be of interest to you.

In May we sent out a survey to our members. Thank you to all who have participated. We received 57 responses out of 130 requests. We asked about your interests in several areas and if you would like to volunteer on a committee or with a specific task. We will be contacting you as those opportunities become available. We also asked for ideas for programs and field trips for next year. We will try to accommodate as many of those as possible in the coming year. We also asked for specific goals you would like the board to work on and we will be going through each of those to see how we can incorporate them into our planning. Contact Molly at russellx1@msn.com for a email copy of the survey.

We had several community events starting in May with International Migratory Birding Day. Thank you to Beth Phillips for organizing volunteers for that event. In June we participated in the first Linkville River Festival. It was a huge success and I want to thank Diana Samuels for organizing that event. We had grebes dancing on the river behind our booth. It can't get much better than that! We are also participating in Third Thursdays. Thank you to Mary Kelley, Rick Hardy and Al and Jean Van Hulzen for manning the booth for us. We changed our location this year and it has helped to reach more birders. We need volunteers for September 19th if you are available.

President's Message . . . *Molly Russel [Continued]*

In July, Diana and Darrel Samuels, Gary Vequist and I attended the National Audubon Convention in Washington State along the Columbia Gorge. This was the first conference to be held since the year 2000 and it was a great success. We met birders from all over the country, Panama and even The Netherlands. Whenever I introduced myself to someone, they always had great things to say about the Basin. Many had been here and others had it on their list of places to go.

We had sessions on Conservation, Education, Citizen Science, Fundraising, Climate Change, and many others. It was hard to choose what to attend. The speakers were from National Audubon and State and Local chapters working on some amazing projects and programs. We all came home inspired and full of ideas.

In May California Audubon held their board meeting at the Running Y. They invited members of the community to a dinner during that time. One of the reasons for coming to Oregon was to see the area first hand and talk to stakeholders concerning the water issues in the Basin. Since that time you have probably read about Senator Wyden meeting with KBRA stakeholders in Washington DC and now forming a task force of many of those same stakeholders to meet until September to find a way to get the KBRA out of committee and to a vote in congress.

KBAS has stayed neutral on this issue but we did talk to Portland Audubon, California Audubon and the Samuels brought it up in a roundtable discussion with David Yarnold, President & CEO of National Audubon at the conference. Everyone was very much aware of the issues with water for the Refuges and all have made that a priority. National will be working on an Action Alert to go out soon and we will be working with Portland and California Audubon to upgrade the Refuges from a State Important Bird Area to a Continental or hopefully a Global IBA. As you look at a map of the Pacific Flyway, we are a hub for approximately 80% of all the birds on the flyway. We will be working to make sure that stays protected for the future generations.

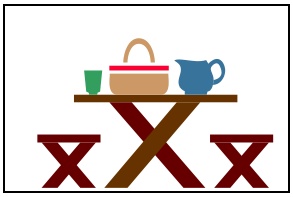
The board held their annual Planning Meeting at the Tulelake Refuge on July 22nd. We came up some great ideas for programs and field trips that we will do our best to accommodate. We also came up with a few goals for the coming year. One is to "Adopt the Refuge". We will be working with the Refuges on projects such as maintenance, volunteers, bringing more people to see the Refuges, etc. They are coming up with a list of items for us to assist and then we will be sharing that list with you and asking for your help in anything that interests you. We also want to get more high school age students involved with Audubon. We will be reaching out to not only high school classes but youth groups to help with field trips, mentor younger kids or volunteer. As mentioned above we will also be working on our IBAs to upgrade their status.

My main focus during my term of office is to increase communication throughout KBAS from the Board to Committees to Members and to the Community. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and suggestions so we can continue to make KBAS a great organization.

Good Read: *"8 Great Summer Birding Trails"* by Kenn Kaufman

The Klamath Basin is featured as one of the trails in this new release in the Audubon Magazine, accessible on line. Audubon's guide to unforgettable trips that wend through charming towns and rural outposts while also connecting the dots between many Important Bird Areas is very interesting.

Published: July-August 2013
http://www.audubonmagazine.org/articles/living/8-great-summer-birding-trails



PICNIC TIME !

Jean and Al Van Hulzen, once again cordially invite members of KBAS to enjoy birding and a potluck at their home in Rocky Point on Saturday, August 17, 2013.

You are welcome to come early and bird informally around their lovely property. Grill-meister, Al, will be serving up shrimp appetizers and tri-tip from his BBQ. The shrimp will be ready about 12:30 p.m. with the main meal about 1:00 p.m. Hamburgers will be provided by KBAS. Bring a dish of your choice for about 8, to share and your own beverages. Plates, cups, and utensils will be provided. Also bring insect repellent/long sleeve shirt! RSVP, questions, or directions call Jean at 541-810-2110

Field Trip

Saturday, September 14th 8:00 a.m. Fall Birding in the Basin This September we are celebrating the fall migration of birds into the Basin. This will be a great addition to our presentation and discussion at the general meeting. Meet at the USFWS office on California Ave and we will carpool to the Pelican Guard Station and then on to Four Mile Meadow as we explore the woodlands, creek and meadows in the area. Leader: Ellen Minichiello-Boles

For all field information, contact: Ellen Minichiello-Boles at 541-576-4444 or Natureisit2@yahoo.com to register, ask questions, have suggestions or can lead a field trip.

OTHER NON-KBAS EVENTS

Central Valley Bird Symposium
On November 21-24, 2013, the Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 17th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium at the Stockton Hilton Hotel, in Stockton, CA. check out our symposium website at: www.2013cvbs.org/

NOTE: Please check the KBAS website for updates on additional field trip information: www.klamathaudubon.org

USF&WS office is located at 1936 California Avenue, off the on-ramp to Hwy 97 South from Nevada/ Oregon Avenue. Times stated are START/LEAVE

Winter Wings Festival

Mark your calendars for the 35th annual Winter Wings Festival which will be a four day festival beginning Thursday, February 13, 2014 and ending on Sunday, February 16, 2014. The plan is to host the Festival at the Running Y Ranch and the Oregon Institute of Technology.

Headlining the festival is **Bill Thompson III,** editor/co-publisher of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, America's longest-running magazine for birders, **Rick Sammon**, a Canon Explorer of Light, is one of the most active photographers on the planet, and **Brian Sullivan,** project leader for eBird (www.ebird.org) and photographic editor for the Birds of North America Online. **Sharon Stiteler,** aka Birdchick, will also make her first appearance.

We have a variety of volunteer openings beginning now. Contact Diana Samuels at 541-850-5832 or Anne Wenner at 541-882-1219 if you would like to know more.

Bly Ranch Field Trip, North Fork Sprague River, June 14 and 15.
Leader: Marshal Moser
Report by Kevin Spencer

It's not every day that one gets to experience habitat that might resemble how it used to be, and especially riparian habitat. Over the years property along the North Fork of the Sprague has largely reduced resource use along the water course. The habitat along that stretch has responded with increased willow establishment, and growth of grasses, sedge, and herbs/forbs along its banks. The increased vegetation has likely supported increased bird activity, along with nesting opportunities.

Family members of a ranch near Bly invited Audubon members out to the property, June 14th and 15th, to share the condition of the riparian and other habitats, as well as to document the birds using the area. Those visiting were treated to a late afternoon walk, dinner, and early morning walks as well as a BBQ lunch next to their beautiful cabin along their section of the river.

The property is on the North Fork of the Sprague River northeast of Bly, Klamath County. It is mostly Ponderosa Pine, with some juniper on the upland side, and then along the river corridor, willow, and some cottonwood and alder. The area has some ongoing riparian improvement projects and has seen an increase in riparian bird species. The upland habitat has had recent juniper reduction. Understory vegetation, including forbs, herbs, and grasses, appears to be vigorous in both the upland and river course areas. The survey was done using walkabouts by several groups and covered the entire 200, or so, acres.

Nesting evidence was noted if observed: Mallard-1, Common Merganser-1 (flyover), Turkey Vulture-4, Osprey- 3, flyovers, and a possible nearby nest , Red-tailed Hawk- 1, Golden Eagle – 1 im. (flyover), Sandhill Crane – 1 (flyover; heard in distance), Spotted Sandpiper – up to 6; more than 1 pair; performed distraction display, Willet – 1, Mourning Dove – 6, Common Nighthawk -10; foraging along river corridor; booming in evening, Vaux's Swift – 1; a flyover, Rufous Hummingbird – 2; males, likely in migration away from breeding area , Belted Kingfisher -1, Red-breasted Sapsucker -4; drumming, Hairy Woodpecker – 2; carrying food, Northern Flicker -4, Olive-side Flycatcher- 1, Western Wood Peewee – 6; nest observed, Gray Flycatcher- 4; singing, Dusky Flycatcher- 2, Pacific-sloped Flycatcher -2; upstream along river, Cassin's Vireo, Warbling Vireo- 7, Steller's Jay- 1, Clark's Nutcracker-3, Common Raven-4 , Tree Swallow- 12; multiple nests, in provided nest boxes, Violet-green Swallow-1; foraging, Bank Swallow- 1, Barn Swallow-1 Mountain Chickadee-6, Pygmy Nuthatch-3, Brown Creeper-5; pair near cabin, but nest not detected, House Wren- 8; multiple nest cavities/boxes in use, American Dipper-up to 4; nest located upstream, Western Bluebird -2; nest cavities, Mountain Bluebird-2; one nest cavity in butt of fallen juniper , Townsend's Solitaire-1, American Robin- 10; young being fed not included, Sage Thrasher-1; seemed to be in atypical habitat, Cedar Waxwing- 3, Yellow Warbler-12, Northern Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)- 8 , MacGillivray's Warbler- 2 singing, Western Tanager -4, Green-tailed Towhee- at edge of pine upslope across river, Spotted Towhee-1, Chipping Sparrow-14; carrying food, possible hatch year birds present, Brewer's Sparrow- 5, Vesper Sparrow-2; just west of ridge, Song Sparrow-5, Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco- 5; one hatch year bird, Black-headed Grosbeak-2 , Lazuli Bunting- 1; not singing; heard buzzy calls only, Red-winged Blackbird- 4, Western Meadowlark-2, Brewer's Blackbird- 7, Brown-headed Cowbird- 4 (one hatch year bird observed being fed by Song Sparrow). Bullock's Oriole -2; pair, Cassin's Finch- 3, Red Crossbill- 6; pairs or individuals seen only… not in groups, Lesser Goldfinch- 4, Species: 63.

Observers: Family members, Julie Van Moorhem, Dave Hewitt, Jean and Al Van Hulzen, Bill and Elaine Deutschman, Kevin Spencer, and Marshal Moser [and thanks Marshal for setting up this great trip!].

Recap of American Kestrel Nest Box Usage . . . *by Cy Phillips*

A total of 69 nest boxes were monitored during the nesting season just ending.

The overall breakdown of usage is as follows:

- Usage by American Starlings 38
- Usage by Western Bluebirds 5
- Usage by American Kestrels 4
- Usage by Tree Swallows 3
- Not occupied by any birds 19

Total 69

The breakdown by geographical areas is as follows:

- Running Y

American Kestrels	1
Tree Swallows	2
Boxes not occupied	7
Total	10

- Lonesome Duck

Tree Swallows	1
Boxes not occupied	4
Total	5

- Tionesta/Modoc Forest

Western Blue Birds	5
American Starlings	1
Boxes not occupied	2
Total	8

- Malin/Tule Lake Area

American Starlings	36
American Kestrels	4
Boxes not occupied	6
Total	46

Summary thoughts: Of the five nest boxes actually used by American Kestrels, 3 succeeded in raising a total of 11 young birds. Two nesting attempts in the Malin area failed, one because an unknown predator cleaned the eggs out of the box and the other when the female lost her mate and could not maintain the nesting effort. In total 8 eggs were either destroyed or failed to hatch. The competition between Starlings and Kestrels was most intense in the Malin/Tule Lake area where there is a lot of active farming.

At least three pairs of Kestrels spent a lot of time checking out nest boxes but never actually used them. I believe these three pairs used other nesting options such as trees or buildings. Some experts say it may take two to three years before American Kestrels fully accept nesting boxes that are supplied, in which case we hope to see more utilization in the next two years. After observing 46 nest boxes personally, I found that a pair of Kestrels can control a nest box without any interference from Starlings. However, once Kestrels abandon a box or show no interest in a box early in the nesting season the Starlings move in quickly.

Sharp Shined Hawks appear to be the biggest enemy of Kestrels. On one farm, we have reason to believe that a Sharp Shined Hawk killed three Kestrels over a period of 7-8 months, and that the mate of a female Kestrel was also killed at another location.

The bedding material will be replaced before the next nesting season, and the boxes will be monitored again next year. We will report further at that time.



2013 State of the Birds Report on Private Lands

A new national report released recently by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and contributed to by local science-based non-profit Klamath Bird Observatory, highlights the considerable extent to which native bird populations in the United States depend on private lands. Significantly, the *2013 State of the Birds Report on Private Lands* also demonstrates that conservation action on private lands is not just for the birds; landowners and the general public benefit from conservation actions that result in cleaner air and water and more resilient and productive landscapes. [Access the full report at www.stateofthebirds.org.] From Brandon Breen, Outreach and Science Communications, Klamath Bird Observatory www.klamathbird.org.

Important Conservation Issues *. . . by Marshal Moser*

Heavy smoke hides the mountains around the Klamath Basin as I write this report. A dry year is bringing special challenges to man and beast alike. Can we sustain both agriculture in the Basin as well the fish and wildlife through this bottleneck? Both are of tremendous economic value as well as more intangible values here and in widespread areas from the Arctic to the Tropics. Audubon is monitoring the situation closely, especially with the refuges in the Basin, and meeting with various people to help where we can. Let people know you care about your wildlife too!

Efforts continue by several conservation organizations, including KBAS, to get the U.S. Forest Service to better protect Jack Creek in the far northern end of the Basin in Klamath County. Mentioned in earlier issues, Jack Creek is a small creek draining a rather large area with many springs, fens, and bogs. It has roughly 60 known sensitive species including the Oregon Spotted Frog, the once thought extinct Miller Lake Lamprey, and some smaller creatures new to science. The beaver relocation project of the Klamath Water Partnership, also in earlier issues of the Grebe, did transplant several beaver to the watershed to help stabilize the stream banks and increase the perennial flow of Jack Creek.

If it isn't one thing it's another. The Army Corps has backed away from killing gulls on East Sand Island in the Columbia River. Trying to fool "Mother Nature" can be very tricky and, we should have learned over and over, have very significant unintended consequences. National and several local Audubon Chapters explained in part: The effort to manipulate avian populations in the Columbia River Estuary is resulting in an ever more complex and uncertain situation for avian populations. The idea is to reduce natural predation on salmon in the Columbia River. It is feared that the efforts to protect salmon from natural predation by native wildlife species is going to continue to ensnare a growing number of species and individual birds. The Caspian Terns eat the young salmon, so they are moved and concentrated, so gulls are eating the terns. Enter interactions with the Bald Eagles and the whole situation keeps getting more complex and expensive. Thought is that conservation efforts should primarily target the human activities that are the key causes of species decline; the Corps should focus its efforts on improving the operation and configuration of the dams that account for the overwhelming percentage of juvenile salmon mortality.

You may have heard of a similar approach to the preceding closer to home, the authorization of test shooting Barred Owls by trained hunters. This is to help the endangered Spotted Owl continue in certain areas. Although native to North America, Barred Owls were at home in the heavy deciduous forests of the east. Possibly due to adaptation to the breakup of their habitat by humans, they have now expanded into the habitat of Spotted Owls. They have now become major predators of Spotted Owls. This is all related to what has surpassed land development as the leading cause of species extinction in the world – invasive species. From plants you buy at a nursery crowding out native grasses to Brook Trout hybridizing Bull Trout out of existence, some are saying it is like a "Biological Thermonuclear Extinction."

You may remember the efforts on many conservation groups to stop the landing of amphibious aircraft on Oregon's pristine Waldo Lake: the State Legislature has confirmed it!

There is a movement afoot to create and National Wildlife Conservation Stamp for non-hunters to also financially support our National Wildlife Refuge System. If you want to learn more go to: http://wildlifeconservationstamp.org/the-proposal.

From David Yarnold, President & CEO of the National Audubon Society: "…Cats – particularly feral cats – are a leading cause of bird deaths. Audubon has long supported a "Cats Indoors" campaign urging pet owners to keep their cats indoors for the safety of both their pets and birds. We have guidelines on how to keep both birds and cats safe via www.audubon.org … good, common sense." Better: http://web4.audubon.org/bird/at_home/safecats.html

And, the U.S. Supreme Court has let stand a ruling against gold mining in streams due to stream and habitat destruction.

KBAS's TogetherGreen Project . . . by Darrel Samuels

Since 2008 Toyota and National Audubon Society have partnered in a $25 million program to support local environmentalists and their projects in three ways:

Fellowships: 40 Fellows per year receive training, networking support, and funding to conduct a conservation project.
Innovation Grants: Over 30 partnerships with local Audubon chapters receive funding and training per year to engage new audiences in conservation action.
Engagement Campaigns: Inspiring people around the country to spend time in nature and take conservation action where they live. For example, their "Pennies for the Planet" campaign http://education.audubon.org/pennies-planet raised money for on the ground conservation, and The "Exit the Highway" campaign http://www.togethergreen.org/act-now highlights the scenic beauty of our country.

Klamath Basin Audubon was selected in 2011 to receive an Innovation Grant of over $19,000 to partner with several other organizations (USFWS, Klamath Bird Observatory, Keno Rural Fire District, private landowners, etc.) in a project involving restoration of Oregon White Oak woodlands on private lands. Dave Ross of USFWS was the principal author while I received Audubon's training and helped administer the grant. Our project involved removing encroaching Junipers from the Oak forests, processing into firewood (dubbed "Bird Wood" in the program), and distributing the firewood free to low-income Klamath residents for winter heating. Local high school science and art students were involved in learning about the oak woodlands and designing a logo for the program. Senior Rachel Limb from Klamath Union H.S. created the winning logo [see below].

See Audubon's press release about our project: http://www.togethergreen.org/grants/grant/upper-klamath-oak-woodland-renewable-energy-project

Toyota is an enthusiastic partner with Audubon and is committed to make a corporate contribution to the environment. I invite you to explore the TogetherGreen website and see how individuals and Audubon chapters are making a real difference!



Treasurer's Report . . . *by Mary Kelley*

Balances as of 06/30/13

Account	
KBAS Checking Account	$7,602
Reserve CD 08	5,044
Reserve CD 82	10,146
Reserve CD 37	8,685
Sterling MM Savings(CD#3)	19,547
Sterling Savings Grant Administration	13,613
Winter Wings Festival Checking	21,750
Cash Box	40
PAX World Fund	5,760
Scott Endowment Fund	25,001
TOTAL	**$117,567**

KBAS BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesdays 3:00 – 5:00 pm 205 Riverside Ave
[Chamber of Commerce and Discover Klamath building]
Conference room. New day/time/location.

September 4
October 2
November 6
December 4
January 2 [Thursday]
February 5
March 5
April 2
April 30 [for May meeting]

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members			
President	* Molly Russell	884-3868	russellx1@msn.com
Vice-President	* Hallie Rasmussen [530]	667-2231	hallie_Rasmussen@fws.gov
Secretary	*Beth Philips	723-2161	pidgeco@gmail.com
Treasurer	*Mary Kelley	783-3690	mkelley@blc.edu
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	*Gary Vequist		garyvy@gmail.com
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	*Tom Essex	273-7442	ospreytom@charter.net
	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net

ALL AREA CODES ARE 541 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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Conservation	Marshal Moser	880-4629	Marshalmoser@gmail.com
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Grants: School/KBAS	Jim Rooks	851-0209	runningyrooks@charter.net www.klamathaudubon.org
Winter Wings	Diana Samuels Anne Wenner	850-5832 882-1219	dsamuels@charter.net Kcwenner@aol.com

KBAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

Local Membership Dues

☐ Individual: $20
☐ Student and Seniors (62 and over): $15
☐ Family: $25
☐ Here is my tax deductible extra contribution for $_____
Total Enclosed $_____

☐ Check here if you are a current member of national Audubon
☐ Not sure of national membership status
Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP_____

Phone _____ e-mail _____
Klamath Basin Audubon Society - **Chapter Code C3ZT600Z**
Should you join as a first time member of National Audubon, please use the above Chapter Code on your form – we receive additional $$.
Please contact me regarding:
☐ Gift memberships
☐ Volunteering for KBAS Committee activities
Make your check payable to KBAS and mail with this form to: KBAS, P.O. 354, Klamath Falls, OR. 97601

The Grebe

Is published 6 times a year by the **Klamath Basin Audubon Society (KBAS)**

Mission: The Klamath Basin Audubon Society will provide the opportunity for all to experience and appreciate our region's wildlife, focusing on birds and other natural resources.

- KBAS is a chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society.
- KBAS general meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month except June, July and August at the County "Meeting Room," 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls.
- The Board of Directors meets at 6:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the County "Meeting Room," 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- For address changes please contact both National Audubon Society and KBAS, Attn. Jo Massey, P.O Box 354, Klamath Falls, OR. 97601
- Comments and information to The Grebe Editor are welcomed and encouraged. Send to Grebe Editor, 6749 Coopers Hawk Rd. Klamath Falls, OR. 97601 or mchristian1@charter.net.
- Check our website at www.klamathaudubon.org
- KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com



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Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 97601
August/September 2013

Or Current Occupant

Klamath Basin Audubon Society [KBAS] has joined the Facebook world! You can simply search for our page or use this link http://www.facebook.com/pages/Klamath-Basin-Audubon-Society/150534675107885

KBAS's e-mail address is: klamathaudubonino@gmail.com

Klamath Basin Bird News [KBBN] Reminder: Klamath Basin Bird News is an informal email network (a mailing list) of over 100 bird enthusiasts in the Basin and elsewhere. You can learn more about the group at its web site (https://sites.google.com/site/klamathbasinbirdnews), and it is linked from the 'Birds' section of the KBAS web site. Please participate! Sign up online or contact Dave Hewitt at dhewitt37@gmail.com

KBAS General Meetings are the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m., County Meeting Room, 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls. The agenda:

6:30-7:00 p.m.	Gathering and refreshments
7:00-7:20 p.m.	Business/announcements
7:20-8:30 p.m.	Program

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