



# the Bastoff

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Space Center  
P. O. Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058  
Meetings Monday Noon at Bay Oaks Country Club  
14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Clear Lake City  
Phone: 281.488.7888 \* Chartered 1964  
**Volume 47 : Number 1 \* July 7, 2008**



## *Service Above Self*

### **Programs:** *Kippy Carraway, Chair 2008-09*

**Today.** ..... **Houston Mayor, Bill White speaking on the economy & sustainability**

July 14..... John Branch, VP Clear Lake Water Authority

July 21..... Club Meeting

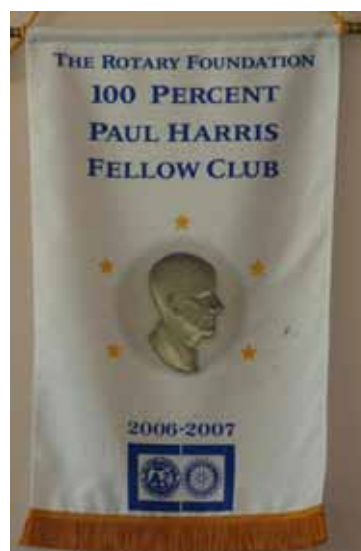
July 28..... Oliver Luck, President of the Houston Dynamos

*Bring a Guest.*

### **Say Happy Birthday to —**

Bob Richmond..... July 18th

Rodolfo Gonzalez. .... July 28th



### **Monday, June 3th Installation of Officers & Directors 2008-2009**

District Governor, Jeff Tallas installed the officers & directors to preside over the business of SCRC in Rotary Year 2008 – 2009. As President, Dick Gregg gave his parting remarks, President Elect, Michael Hernandez was sworn in (see page 2 for Pres. Mike's plans & goals). Other officers accepting their responsibilities for the continued success of our club were Gary Johnson, PE, Jon McKinnie, Sec, Marilyn Musial continuing as Treas & John Wilson, Sgt @ Arms, charged with keeping proper decorum. Nine Directors, either newly elected to three-year terms or continuing their terms were Mark Humphre, ==>

**John Nugent, Bill Geissler, David Coney, Belinda Skloss, Richard Hergert, Rae De Castro, \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_.** The members pledged their support of these dedicated Rotarians to assure another successful year in the life of SCRC.



Meet our newest member, sponsored by Bill Gessler, **Jack Bacon**, a NASA engineer. See bio on the next page.



**Pres. Mike's Message** — *I am proposing an energetic agenda for 2008 – 2009. This is a great club and with you help we will make it greater. These are my general & specific goals:*

### General Goals

- Keep members informed of Club activities & finances;
- Identify 4 primary beneficiary projects; 3 local & 1 international;
- Present meaningful & interesting weekly programs;
- Promote, support & participate in club & district events & fellowships;
- Support District 5890 in promoting Houston as the site of the year 2015 International RI Convention;
- Establish guidelines to set aside contingency funds;
- Evaluate ways to increase Shrimporee net proceeds to at least \$200,000;
- Maintain a club environment that promotes participation, a sense of accomplishment and friendship among the members;
- Following Club tradition, meet or exceed the functions required to achieve the Rotary International "Presidential Citation"; and
- Earn the honor of selection of the District 5890 "Club of the Year".

### Specific Goals

**Membership:** Increase membership by a net of 5 members

**The Rotary Foundation:** Maintain 100% Paul Harris Membership; meet our commitment to "Every Rotarian Every Year" raising \$100 per member; & Support Polio Plus efforts with a donation of \$1,000

**SCR Endowment Foundation:** Support the Fallen Astronaut Memorial project fund raising efforts

**Community, International & Vocational Service:** Continue the many fine programs in these areas; have one Blood Drive; Perform a service project addressing the Child Mortality issue presented by the RI President; Perform or participate in an International Water Project; Re-establish the Memorial Committee and hold one Club meeting at the Memorial site

**Public Relations:** Implement a plan that increases awareness of Rotary contributions among the community and club members with regular press releases, project posters, videos, etc.

**Fund Raising:** Conduct a successful Shrimporee with a goal of net proceeds = \$80,000 and Springoree improving last year's net by 10%; Support committees with grant writing resources

**Youth Exchange:** Increased budget to host two exchange students

**Interact & Rotaract:** Re-establish Rotaract & Interact clubs & invite their participation in selected Club activities

**Constitution & Bylaws:** Evaluate & amend as necessary the Club's documents with the assistance of the President, Pres. Elect & Secretary

*A brief biographical sketch of our newest member, **Jack Bacon** — Jack is an engineer at NASA, an internationally known motivational speaker, a distinguished lecturer (emeritus) of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and a member of both the National Speakers' Association and the International Federation of Professional Speakers. He is actively involved in Engineers Without Borders and will be traveling with them for two weeks in August to install water purification and food perseveration systems in Rwanda. Jack has written three popular books, *My Grandfather's Clock*, *My Stepdaughter's Watch* and *The Parallel Bang*. He is working on a fourth book *Killer Apps for the Green Global Village*. Jack has lectured in 32 countries on six continents and has appeared on numerous radio and television broadcasts. At NASA JSC, Jack is on the management team overseeing the construction and operation of the International Space Station. A graduate of Caltech (B.S. 1976) and the University of Rochester (Ph. D. 1984), his extensive career includes roles in the development of many cutting edge technologies, including controlled thermonuclear fusion, electronic office, factory automation and globalization of business. He pioneered the deployment of several artificial intelligence systems, learning his craft at the famed Xerox Palo Alto Research Center. Jack was the United States' lead systems integrator of the Zarya — the jointly-built space craft that forms the central bridge and adapter between all U. S. and Russian technologies on the Space Station. This landmark in technological history was built in Moscow by American and Russian engineers and launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in November 1998. Jack speaks Russian and French and has asked "Where is the bathroom?" in 14 languages. He is a fellow of the Explorer's Club and was founding member of the board of directors of the Science National Honor Society. He is a recipient of NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal, the Director's Special Commendation and the coveted Silver Snoopy Award. Welcome & get to know Jack.*





*Top left to right: We say farewell to our French Exchange Student, \_\_\_\_\_ Marie Campo; Pres. Dick becomes as "has been" and is pinned as Immediate Past President for a year; John Wilson is pinned as Sgt @ Arms as Gov. Jeff looks on; Marilyn Musial bravely accepts another year as Treasurer (she is*

*looking for you dues); New Pres. Mike shares his plans, goals and dreams for the new year; Pres. Dick transfers the gavel to Pres. Mike; Bill Lowes readies for the Texas Roadhouse Golf Tournament.*

Our district held its annual outbound camp this past week-end – June 27-29 – at Presbyterian Camp Cho Yeh in Livingston . Cho Yeh is an Indian phrase which means "where tall trees grow". The camp name is used to reflect "where young people grow tall" through the inspirations at the camp. The camp was ideal for our needs. We plan to return there next year. Thirteen of our 14 outbound students attended. (One was ill.) Also attending were 7 Rotexes and 5 Rotarians. Gary and Kit Aguren (Willowbrook), Birda Gaskin (D5910), and Alan ( Space Center ) and Gaye ( Pasadena ) Wylie. See pictures. We arrived Friday at noon and conducted training and team building activities until Sunday noon. The students were very much motivated and bonded together like you would not believe, unless you have attended such sessions before. They are now ready to go abroad and be our ambassadors. The 7 Rotexes, as always, were the key to the camp. They told their stories – what worked for them, what were the challenges, etc. Because of the Rotex students, the outbound students now have a much better understanding of the "Magic of Rotary Youth Exchange". The students and their parents had already attended two orientation sessions back in January and March. For the camp, we told stories, showed videos, conducted Role Plays, etc, to more deeply reflect the importance of adapting and being members of the host families, doing well in school, getting to know their counselors and Rotary clubs. We played cultural awareness games (Ba Fa Ba Fa, Barnga). WE went over the rules – the joy of naturally integrating into the rules environment, and the problems that would occur if they had to go home early. We addressed how to react to the unlikely event of abuse or harassment. We discussed the features of Rotary (Paul Harris, the foundation, ambassadorial scholars, etc.). We discussed the importance of discuss, not debate. The importance of smiles and good body language. The importance of observing the features of the new culture before making unintentional cultural mistakes. The importance of asking for help when help is needed, knowing that Rotarians will always be available to help. We suggested that they learn the four way test in their new language and ask their clubs if they could lead the four way test (an idea to consider for next year's inbound students). We discussed questions of international interest. We discussed how homesickness would be natural at the beginning, the importance of finding the right set of friends, and how difficult it will be saying good-bye at the end. Sunday, we handed out certificates to each of the students and to the Rotex students. (Sample is attached.) Then we cleaned the camp and said good-bye, which took a while. Lot of hugging going on. Two pictures are attached. Hopefully one or both can wind up in the district newsletter (Forget who is in charge) or in club newsletters. Our outbound program is growing. Clubs should be aware.

Alan Wylie

P. S. I have a file at the office which contains the business cards for all of our outbound students. I will share this file with you tomorrow. Our district is proud of these future ambassadors.





## Events Calendar

- Club Board of Directors . . . . . 3rd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees  
. . . . . 2nd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Rotary Foundation Comm. . . . . last Wed @ 7 a.m.
- Shrimporee . . . . . October 18th
- Springoree . . . . . 2009
- District 5890 Conference, Lake Charles. . . . . 2009
- Texas Roadhouse Golf Tournament  
. . . . . Monday, June 30 @ Bay Oaks CC
- RI Convention, Los Angeles. . . . . June 15-18 '08

*SCRC Fellowships 6:30 p.m.*

[Ridonnelly@aol.com](mailto:Ridonnelly@aol.com)

Moments just before the pain begins:



**OUCH!!!!**

**You know that the national anthem of the United States of America is the *Star Spangled Banner*. You probably know that it was written by poet Francis Scott Key. You may know that it was inspired by the bombardment of Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland during the war of 1812 when the British decided they had not had enough of the American spirit during the Revolutionary War 1775 – 1783. You also may know that it was written in 1814, but did you know that its first official use was by the U. S. Navy in 1889. That’s right, not until 75 years after it was written and then it was not until March 3, 1931 that President Herbert Hoover signed into law the Congressional Resolution making it our national anthem. You can probably sing the first verse without a score sheet, but do you know the rest of the story? There are only two verses. This is the second:**

***“O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand Between their loved homes and the war’s desolation! Blest with vict’ry and peace, may the heav’n-rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto, ‘In God is our trust.’ And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!”***



**The first and current flags. June 14, 1777 and July 4, 1960.**

**I am the Flag**  
by Ruth Apperson Rous



I am the flag of the United States of America. I was born on June 14, 1777, in Philadelphia. There the Continental Congress adopted my stars and stripes as the national flag. My thirteen stripes alternating red and white, with a union of thirteen white stars in a field of blue, represented a new constellation, a new nation dedicated to the personal and religious liberty of mankind. Today fifty stars signal from my union, one for each of the fifty sovereign states in the greatest constitutional republic the world has ever known. My colors symbolize the patriotic ideals and spiritual qualities of the citizens of my country. My red stripes proclaim the fearless courage and integrity of American men and boys and the self-sacrifice and devotion of American mothers and daughters. My white stripes stand for liberty and equality for all. My blue is the blue of heaven, loyalty, and faith. I represent these eternal principles: liberty, justice, and humanity. I embody American freedom: freedom of speech, religion, assembly, the press, and the sanctity of the home. I typify that indomitable spirit of determination brought to my land by Christopher Columbus and by all my forefathers - the Pilgrims, Puritans, settlers at James town and Plymouth. I am as old as my nation. I am a living symbol of my nation’s law: the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. I voice Abraham Lincoln’s philosophy: “A government of the people, by the people, for the people.” I stand guard over my nation’s schools, the seedbed of good citizenship and true patriotism. I am displayed in every schoolroom throughout my nation; every schoolyard has a flag pole for my display. Daily thousands upon thousands of boys and girls pledge their allegiance to me and my country. I have my own law—Public Law 829, “The Flag Code” - which definitely states my correct use and display for all occasions and situations. I have my special day, Flag Day. June 14 is set aside to honor my birth. Americans, I am the sacred emblem of your country. I symbolize your birthright, your heritage of liberty purchased with blood and sorrow. I am your title deed of freedom, which is yours to enjoy and hold in trust for posterity. Eternal vigilance is your price of freedom. As you see me silhouetted against the peaceful skies of my country, remind yourself that I am the flag of your country, that I stand for what you are - no more, no less. Guard me well, lest your freedom perish from the earth. Dedicate your lives to those principles for which I stand: “One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” I was created in freedom. I made my first appearance in a battle for human liberty. God grant that I may spend eternity in my “land of the free and the home of the brave” and that I shall ever be known as “Old Glory,” the flag of the United States of America.

*Surely, those 56 that risked their property, their lives and their sacred honor in declaring and signing the Declaration of Independence, and all who fought against seemingly insurmountable odds against the most powerful army and navy in the world to establish liberty for us all, knew the meaning of **Service Above Self**.*

Founding father, John Adams said: “Liberty is the freedom to disagree.” Disagree we might, but we should do so with courtesy and respect and with no enmity or hatred toward one another or to those that so desperately want to live the American dream. *An editorial comment.*