

# *the Blastoff*

Official Newsletter of  
The Rotary Club of Space Center  
P O Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058  
Meetings Monday 11:45 at Bay Oaks Country Club  
Clear Lake City Ph. 281.488.7888  
Chartered 1964  
March 23, 2009

Editor: Billy Smith

Photographer: Bob Mitchell

## A message from Pres. Mike



All Club Meeting is around the corner! At the latest count we had 28 members attending and participating, not only in the meeting but also, the reception to the RI Site Inspection Team for the 2015 Convention! As you know, Houston is one of the 4 potential Cities to host the World Rotary International Convention in 2015. This is most exciting, since Houston has not hosted the RI Convention for over 30 years. The convention means a lot to our District 5890, since we will be the hosting District, this will bring visibility to our District and the activities we have been doing. This type of press coverage also results in more people interested in joining Rotary. To the greater Houston area, the Convention also means world wide exposure and the influx of thousands of people which represent a boost to the local economy. We have cancelled our Monday club meeting on that day, for our members to be able to attend. Let's make an effort and if you have not registered yet, contact Jon McKinnie today. Count yourself among the Rotarians that help to have a great All Cub Meeting and bring the RI 2015 Convention to Houston!! I thought I should go over the status of our club and some of the issues we have been working at the Board over the last 2 meetings. The membership report over the last 2 months show the club losing 2 members, re-instating one member and inducting a new member; 2 members were approved for Rule 85, and 2 Red Badge members were given permanent blue badges. So far during the month of March, the Board has approved the proposals for 3 new members. At the present time our membership consists of 115 active members which represents a gain of 4 during this Rotary year!! The Treasurer's report showed that all present members have paid their dues. The issue of investments was raised again. The Board is still waiting for the recommendation on what to do with the money invested in the Janus Funds. The question was raised during the last Board meeting whether the club should own stocks, particularly concerning is the amount of money lost in the ongoing United States financial crisis. It was stated that a committee should study the options and make a recommendation to the board. A motion was made to create a committee chaired by the Treasurer. Motion was seconded and unanimously past. In accordance with this motion, the Treasurer, (Marilyn Musial) would chair the committee, David Coney, Lamar Bowles, and David Taylor would also comprise the committee. *Cont'd on pg 3.*



Rotary International  
President 2008-2009



Dong Kurn Lee



Rotary District 5890  
Governor 2008-2009  
**Rhonda Kennedy**



**Chris Schneider**  
Alvin, Seabrook, Space Center  
District Assistant Governor

Past District Governors  
From SCRC

Dr. Floyd D. Boze  
1981-1982



Billy Weseman  
1993-1994



Suzi Howe  
2006-2007

*Service Above Self*

## Programs —

*Kippy Caraway, Chair 2008-2009*

***TODAY .. Dr. William Staples, Pres. UH—CL***

*Mar 30th .... All Club Meeting @ Geo. R. Brown Convention Center*

*Apr 6th ..... Julie Robinson, Program Scientist for the International Space Station*

*Apr 13th ..... TBD*

*Apr 20th ..... TBD*

*Apr 27th ..... TBD*

*May 4th ..... Remembering our Deceased former members  
Meeting at Clear Park, Cap Landolt Pavilion*

*May 25th ..... **Holiday — no meeting***

*June 1st ..... Excellence in Education Awards*

*June 8th ..... Excellence in Law Enforcement Awards*

*June 15th .... Club Assembly: Review of Year's Accomplishments*

*June 22nd ... Installation of Officers & Directors for 2009-2010*

***Bring a Guest!!***

## Say Happy Birthday to —

Nanci Rutledge.....	March 1st
Travis Vermeer.....	March 4th
Wayne Young.....	March 5th
J B Fox.....	March 9th
Pam Culpepper.....	March 14th
Tim Kropp.....	March 17th
Jerry Smith.....	March 18th

***CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL.  
WE WISH YOU MANY MORE.***

## SCRC SOCIALS

*Mar 31st .....Italian Café, 4322 NASA Plwy.*

***Contact Roger Donnelly.***

***Ridonnelly@aol.com***

**AMOCO FEDERAL  
CREDIT UNION**

**AOVOCO  
Art Oswald**

**BASTION  
TECHNOLOGIES  
Mike Hernandez**

**BELINDA K.  
SKLOSS, LLC**

### **EVENTS CALENDAR**

**Club Board of Directors** ..... 3rd Tuesday @ 7 a.m.  
**RNASA Committee** ..... 3rd Thursday @ 5:30 p.m.  
**Endowment Foundation Board** ..... 2nd Tuesday @ 7 a.m.  
**Rotary Foundation Committee** ..... last Wednesday @ 7 a.m.  
**Membership Committee** ..... 2nd Monday @ 1:15 p.m.  
**District 5890 Conference, Lake Charles, LA** ..... Apr 30 — May 2, 2009  
**Rotary Space Award Dinner** ..... May 8, 2009  
**Springoree** ..... May 14th  
**100th RI Convention, Birmingham, England** ..... June 21 — 24, 2009

### **Some Notes From the Meeting on March 16th**

- **David Coney** talked about tickets for the District Raffle.
- **John Wilson** presented the *Membership Moment*.
- **Billy Smith**, Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee described the committee's duties & responsibilities & gave an update on the Club Constitution & Bylaws.
- **Pres. Mike** called attention to the District Assembly, a half-day event on April 18th & encourage all in leadership positions to attend.
- **PDG Suzi Howe** asked each past president of SCRC to donate a bottle of wine for a basket to be auctioned at the Springoree.

#### ***A message from the President, continued from page 1.***

The intent is for the committee to bring suggestions to the Board for action on the investment account and effect the changes approved by the Board. The Board is considering using the services of a part-time bookkeeper to keep the accounting records of the club.. The cost for the service was estimated at \$3,000 - \$5,000 per year. At this time the club has no budget for this item. We will continue to investigate possible solutions. We received a request from Boys and Girls Harbor for a defibrillator for the children residents. We will contact the Health and Safety Committee to determine if money in their budget could be used for the defibrillator instead of for a children immunization. A donation of \$200 was approved for the District Conference for door prizes. An amount of \$300 had already been given to the District as donation to support conference expenses. Suzi Howe discussed the Future Vision Plan for Rotary International Foundation. The new plan will commence in the 2010-11 year. Patron will be identified for each grant and there will be six focus areas to group the grants. Rotary International desires clubs to participate in a pilot program at the district level. Mrs. Howe's inquiry was to query whether Space Center Rotary Club desired to participate in the formation of this plan. A vote will take place during the April District Conference. The Board approved the support of the CCISD in the selection and award of Teachers of the year from the District. Our club will participate in the selection from nominated teachers from throughout the District together with members from the League City and Seabrook clubs. Awards will be presented at a luncheon on May 18 at the South Shore Harbor Hotel. Our club will then have a recognition of the teachers of the year at one of our club meetings. Next week I will continue to report on other issues the Board is working.

Yours in Rotary, Mike

**BEN BRIDGE  
JEWELERS**

**Travis Vermeer**

**BILLY R. SMITH**  
Attorney at Law  
Board Certified in  
Estate Planning, Probate &  
Real Estate Law

**DELIA STEPHENS**  
Attorney at Law

**DRDA**  
**Olive Murphy-  
Riker, CPA**



## THE IRISH EYES WERE SMILING ON MARCH 16TH

*L to R: O'Wylie & O'Howe; O'Dillon; & McBride.*

*They all look like they have had a pint or two in an early start to celebrating St. Patrick's Day.*

*Note: There are problems with each picture: Alan is cut off at the shoulders, although not in the original; although taken with the same camera and from one side of the table to the other, the quality of Dennis' picture is very poor; & Debbie's pic could not be rotated. Sorry.*



**GAY & REITZ**  
Attorneys at Law

**GREGG & GREGG,**  
P.C.  
Attorneys at Law

**GURRY**  
**MECHANICAL,**  
L.P.  
Ken Gurry

**HOPPING EYE**  
**ASSOCIATES**  
Vissett Sun

### DISTRICT 5890 RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are now on sale. The prize is an exciting \$5,000 voucher to travel anywhere in the world and a Rotarian gets \$100 credit with RI for a Paul Harris Sustaining Membership. Both the winning ticket seller & the club president receive two round-trip tickets to any destination in the contiguous 48 states. See **DAVID CONEY** for more details.

**Monday March 30th** will be the **ALL CLUB MEETING** and our surprise luncheon for the Site Selection Committee. Please remember that Space Center has cancelled its meeting that day, so everyone has the opportunity to participate. Tickets for the event are \$25 each, so I need you to signify that you plan to attend by return email and bring your money to the Feb 23 club meeting. (make checks payable to Space Center Rotary, we will send one club check to district for all tickets) We want at least 30% of our club to attend if not more. The more Rotarians, the more fun! The club president that has the highest percentage of attendance from his/her club will receive a special prize, so let's help Pres Mike win that prize!! The event will be held at the George R. Brown Convention center in the main ballroom, on Monday March 30th starting at 11:30 am. (To Committee Chairs, we have an opportunity to display some of our wonderful projects, so please consider and advise) We will receive a weekly update from DG Rhonda. Let's not be the last to sign up. The District is shooting for 1,000 in attendance. Let's show RI that District 5890 wants the 2015 Convention! Remember these chants...

**Bring it to Houston ! Bring it to Houston ! Bring it to Houston !**

**2015...5890**

**2015...5890**

**2015...5890**

### SPRINGOREE AUCTION



Items are needed for the live auction to be conducted at the Springoree. Trips, weekend stays, fishing trips, etc. are always good. Please see what you can do to help with very important event.

*Nanci Rutledge*

*Direct: 713-854-0153*



Silent Auction Items are needed for Springoree. Do nations of any size or value are accepted, no donated item is too small. Please bring all items or Gift Certificates to Laura Godwin call me to arrange pick up. All items must be in by May 3, 2009.

*Laura Godwin*

*832-221-3616*



**Ben Bridge Jewelers, Baybrook Mall, through Travis Vermeer, has donated this watch, a Tag Heuer Carrera stainless steel silver dial chronograph with a retail value of \$3,200 to be raffled by the Springoree 2009.**

**HYDROCARBON**  
**RESOURCE**  
**RECOVERY**  
Scott Rainey

**JSC FEDERAL**  
**CREDIT UNION**  
Mike Brown

**J. PAMELA**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Pam Culpepper

**KIRCHOFF**  
**PETERSON CO.**  
Don Kirchoff

**L. D. BOWLES  
ASSOCIATES**

**Lamar Bowles**

**LAS COLINAS  
CUSTOM  
INTEIORS  
Rae DeCastro**

**LEXUS OF  
CLEAR LAKE**

**Joey Dupuis**

**EARL  
&  
TERRILEE  
MAUDLIN**

### **SPEAKER ON MARCH 16TH**

**Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia** is a native of the South Texas farming community of Palito Blanco. She attended Texas Woman's University on a scholarship, graduating with a degree in social work, and received her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. The eighth of 10 children, she learned at an early age the value of education and hard work. She also learned to be frugal with a dollar; a lesson which serves her well as a County Commissioner. Commissioner Garcia was sworn in on January 2, 2003 as Commissioner of Precinct Two. Prior to her election Commissioner Garcia served as Controller for the City of Houston and before that served as the appointed Director and Presiding Judge of the Houston Municipal Court System. As Presiding Judge, she was responsible for a multi-million-dollar budget, coordinated a staff of 50 judges, and established the operation and administration policies of the courts. She enjoys the distinction of having served for an unprecedented five terms under two mayors. Active in the Houston community, the Commissioner has served on more than 25 community boards and commissions, including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Houston Hispanic Forum, the American Leadership Forum, the Texas Southern University Foundation and the Institute of Hispanic Culture. Despite her duties as County Commissioner, Ms. Garcia has made the time and commitment to be the chairperson or honorary chairperson of numerous charity functions. These include the "1998 Girls Inc. Charity Gala", the kick-off for "America Walks for Strong Women", benefiting the National Osteoporosis Foundation and the "International Paella Festival and Polo Espanol" benefiting Casa de Esperanza and The Mercy Foundation. During the past year both community leaders and the media have honored Commissioner Garcia. She was named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Conference of Communities and Justice and chosen as one of "Houston's 25 Power People" by Inside Houston magazine. The Houston Press also named her Politician of the Year." Commissioner Garcia has also been honored with the Texas Woman's University Board of Regents Woman of Distinction Award, the Hispanic Scouting Distinguished Citizen Award from the Sam Houston Area Council/Boy Scouts of America, and the Board Award from the San Jacinto Girl Scouts. Before joining the City of Houston, Commissioner Garcia worked as an attorney for the Gulf Coast Legal Foundation and served on the City's first Appraisal Review Board. She also served as administrative law judge for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and headed her own law firm.

Some bullet points of the presentation:

- Description of the functions & duties of Harris County
- The Jail system
- Emergency Preparedness & cleanup after a disaster
- The population of unincorporated areas of the county exceed the population of San Antonio
- The commissioner lead a movement for re-appropriation of the Ike recovery funds
- Illegal gaming (gambling)
- Support of legislation on graffiti remediation
- Noise abatement from music, dogs, etc.

*Pictured at right: Program Chair, Kippy Caraway,  
Commissioner Garcia & President, Mike Hernandez*



**MAUI WOWI  
Shelley Smith**

**MERRILL LYNCH  
Jerry & Bill  
Smith**

**MRI  
TECHNOLOGIES  
Tim Kropp**

**PROSPERITY  
BANK  
Mark Humphrey**



**SPACE CENTER  
AUTOMOTIVE**  
Jerrold Dewease

**STATE FARM  
INSURANCE**  
Johnny R. White  
Agent

**TEXAS  
CITIZENS BANK**  
Mike Cornett

**TEXAS WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT**  
Mike Hesse

*Pictures: RI Pres. D. K. Lee, receives a present at NASA JSC Mission Control Center; Pres. Lee at console in Mission Control; DG Rhonda, RI Pres, Courtney Lidberg & Jon McKinnie (Courtney was presented a Paul Harris Fellowship);*



**GENE & DONNA  
TROMBLEE**

**UNIVERSITY OF  
HOUSTON  
CLEAR LAKE**

**WALDRON  
&  
SCHNEIDER**

**WalMart  
SuperCenter  
Baytown  
Al Stock, Mrg.**

**THE CITIZEN**

**Mary Alys Cherry**

**TEXAS  
ROADHOUSE  
Tony & Sharon  
Bloomfield**

**UNIVERSITY OF  
HOUSTON  
CLEAR LAKE  
CAMPUS**

**Your name could  
appear here.**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

To all Rotary Clubs of District 5890:

On March 14th, the Governor's Selection Committee, as chosen by the members of District 5890 at last year's District Conference, convened and interviewed proposed candidates to be the 5890 Governor of the Rotary year 2011-2012. These candidates were nominated by the Rotary Clubs of District 5890. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Nominating Committee has submitted their choice for your District Governor Nominee Designate to be Rhonda Walls-Kirby of the Katy Rotary Club. As per the Rotary International By-Laws, Article 13, Manual of Procedure, I submit Rhonda Walls-Kirby to District 5890 as valid and qualified choice for Governor, and declare the 15 day "Challenge" time period to begin as of today. If no Club challenges are received on or before March 29th, 2009, Rhonda Walls-Kirby will be declared the District Governor Nominee Designate and her nomination form will be submitted to Rotary International. Congratulation to Rhonda and Brad. I know that this will be a wonderful experience for both of them.

Thank You,  
District Governor  
Rhonda Kennedy



*More pictures from the March 16th meeting (l to r): Commissioner Garcia & Kippy Caraway confer; Micki Czarnik, Steve Owen, Scott Rainey & Travis Vermeer display the watch to be raffled at Springoree 2009; PDG Suzi Howe presents presents to Pat Doughty & Jon McKinnie as thanks for their help with visiting RI President D. K. Lee.*



A new Hubble photograph captured a rare alignment of four of Saturn's moons lining up in front of their planet. The snapshot, taken on Feb. 24 with the NASA/European Space Agency (ESA) Hubble Space Telescope, shows the moons transiting in front of Saturn. The moons, from far left to right, are the white icy moons Enceladus and Dione, the large orange moon Titan, and icy Mimas. Due to the angle of the Sun, they are each preceded by their own shadow. These rare moon transits only happen when the tilt of Saturn's ring plane is nearly "edge on" as seen from the Earth. Saturn's rings will be perfectly edge on to our line of sight on Aug. 10 and Sept. 4, 2009. Unfortunately, Saturn will be too close to the Sun to be seen by viewers on Earth at that time. This "ring plane crossing" occurs every 14-15 years.

**THIS SPACE**

**IS RESERVED**

**FOR MORE**

**SPONSORS**