

# *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

See the pictures on page 7: On March 12th & 13th, members of SCRC met with RI Pres. D K Lee at a reception during his visit to Houston. A tour of NASA JSC was conducted which included a visit to the Shuttle and Space Station mockups, the Mission Control Center & the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory.

Space Center Rotary Donated a Defibrillator to Boys and Girls Harbor. On Sunday March 29, 2009, the Boys and Girls Harbor received from Sheryl Berg, on behalf of the Space Center Rotary Club an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The Boys and Girls Harbor provides family environment in a home setting to children who are experiencing family hard ship, neglect, abandonment or abuse. Roy Hunter, from the Boys and Girls Harbor had expressed the need for the Defibrillator to be put on site in the Harbor's athletic gym for all sporting events held there. The Space Center Rotary Club, responding to the need, was able to procure an AED from Sterlington Medical for \$ 1,499 and this was delivered to Chief Hunter and residents of the Harbor on Sunday. Chief Hunter expressed tremendous gratitude to SCRC for the donation of such an important piece of equipment for the savings of lives. Yours in Rotary, Mike

*Picture:* Roy Hunter, holding the Defibrillator unit is surrounded by children from the Harbor. Sheryl Berg, from Space Center Rotary is in the far right.



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

*Apr 13th . . . . . Mike Sullivan, Houston City Councilman*

*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 —

Dick Gregg III . . . . .	April 4th
Ken Gurry . . . . .	April 15th
Dennis Dillon . . . . .	April 22nd
Dick Meyre . . . . .	April 30th

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

## SCRC SOCIALS

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

**Contact Roger Donnelly.**

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

## JOHNNY W. GIBSON

It is with deep sorrow, shock, disbelief & grief that the untimely death of **Johnny Gibson**, former member of Space Center Rotary Club, is announced. At age 60, Johnny passed away on Friday, April 3, 2009, in his home. Early speculation of cause of death is a massive heart attack. Johnny is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and children, Stephanie Ann Cockerham, Tommy Warren Gibson, and Holly Carol Gibson. Tommy is also a former member of SCRC. There will be a viewing at Crowder Funeral Home on Medical Center Blvd. from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7th, and funeral at Clear Lake United Methodist Church on El Camino Real on Wednesday, April 8th at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Johnny's memory be made to the Space Center Rotary Club Endowment Foundation of which Johnny had been a Trustee. Johnny will be remembered for his unselfish Service Above Self to Rotary projects and to SCRC. Those of you who have been active in the E F Pancake Breakfasts will remember Johnny and son, Tommy, as the untiring dish washers when we did not use paper plates. Johnny will be missed by all who new and loved him, but we will take comfort in the belief that he is now a member of that great heavenly Rotary Club and was welcomed by so many members of this club and the district who have gone on before him. For this, Johnny can be envied. I wonder what projects they are involved in. Surely, they are some of the most forward thinking and sacrificial ever experienced.



Our speaker on March 23, 2009: **William A. Staples** became the fourth president of University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1995. During Staples' 13 years as president, UHCL has built vital partnerships, developed new academic programs and expanded the university's endowment. His leadership has set the stage for key initiatives that have taken the UHCL experience beyond the classroom and into the community. Staples joined UHCL in 1979 as an associate professor of marketing and was promoted to professor of marketing in 1984. Before his presidency, he served the School of Business as coordinator, program director, associate dean and dean. By serving in various capacities with the university, Staples has gained a deep level of understanding about the organization and how it operates. As chief executive officer of UHCL, Staples works closely with university constituents including the Development and Advisory Council, the UHCL Alumni Association Executive Council and the Community College Advisory Council. As a strong advocate of the university's shared governance system, Staples serves as chair of the University Council, which includes representatives from the Faculty Senate, Professional and Administrative Staff Association, Support Staff Association and Student

Government Association. Staples' community affiliations include serving on the board of directors for the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership and as a member of the advisory boards of the Bay Area Transportation Partnership and Communities in Schools Bay Area as well as the Community Leaders Council of the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast. During 2008-09, Staples is serving as vice chair of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' board of trustees and is slated to assume the role of chair for the 2009-10 term. He previously served a six-year term as a commissioner for the organization. In October 2007, he completed a two-year term as vice president of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities. Career highlights for Staples include receiving the 2003 NASA Public Service Medal for exceptional contributions to the mission of NASA, serving as chairman of the board for the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership in 2003 and 2004, and receiving the Texas Art Education Association's 2004 Governmental Award for Meritorious Service in the Arts. In 2005, he was selected as the E.A. Smith YMCA Community of Stars Gala honoree and, more recently, he was chosen to receive the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's 2008 Quasar Award for Economic Development Excellence. Staples earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Drake University in 1970, a master of business administration from University of Iowa in 1972, and a doctorate in business administration from University of Houston in 1977.

**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

### **Something all Texans should know about your Texas Driver's License:**

Your Texas driver's license has a phone number on the back, just above the bar code on the lower left side: 1-800-525-5555. (It's VERY SMALL PRINT, but it IS there.) This number can be called for emergency assistance on the highway or wherever you might have trouble while in your car. A service truck will be sent to you. This service is state operated, and paid for with your tax dollars. If you are ever stranded, just call the number on your driver's license...help is on the way. A state trooper will be sent to make sure all is well.

### **GARDEN WITH THE GOVERNOR**

District Governor Rhonda Kennedy and up to 40 Interactors and their parents, along with a group of 8 and 9 year-olds hosted by the Hermann Park Club, are expected for the third annual Garden with the Governor at Hermann Park. For the first time, the event will be videotaped for documentation and future publicity. Gardening activities begin at 10AM and will conclude at 1PM. All Rotarians and their extended family members are encouraged to participate. Arrival by 9:30 a.m. is recommended in order to secure a parking space at the zoo or near the Sam Houston statue. Light work clothes and gloves are recommended. A sweet treat and water will be provided. Please bring a picnic lunch if you want heavier fare! The Rotary Centennial Grove was dedicated in February 2005, concluding a two-year effort by 12 Rotary clubs to beautify and increase the usability of the then underdeveloped picnic grove. The \$100,000 project involved planting new trees, placing new picnic tables, and providing lighting fixtures and newly designed trash receptacles. The Rotary Centennial Grove is located in Hermann Park on the southwest corner of McGovern Lake, or near Location #2 on this map: [www.hermannpark.org](http://www.hermannpark.org) For additional information, please contact University Area Rotarian Steve Sucher at 713-204-2965 (cell) or at [suchers@uhd.edu](mailto:suchers@uhd.edu).

**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**



## Reconnecting People with Nature

Members of the Space Center Rotary Club complete another Phase of the Discovery Loop Accessibility Project of The Armand Bayou Nature Center. The Discovery Loop accessibility project, when completed, will provide improved access to the Loop for people that have disabilities and parents with children in strollers. The Discovery Loop is a series of boardwalks, trails, teaching platforms, educational signage and displays that traverse around the core of the Armand Bayou Nature Center. The trails are being resurfaced to become wheel chair and stroller friendly. A group of Rotarians from the Space Center Rotary club worked tirelessly on Saturday, March 28 to complete another segment of trails. The club provided the labor, materials and heavy equipment to get the job done. The Armand Bayou Nature Center is one of the largest urban wilderness preserves in the United States and protects remnants of the natural ecosystem once abundant in the Bay Area Houston region.



*Rotary & Rotarians at work making life better for all.*



**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.

### **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 notations 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**

## **Another Message from Pres. Mike**

**March 30, 2009**

Over the past two weeks there have been a lot of project activities in the club. Two weeks ago under the leadership of Dick Meyer a student from Princeton University applied for Ambassadorial Scholar under the sponsorship of our club. The student, whose father lives in Houston, found our club's name while searching for a Club in Houston to sponsor him. Unfortunately, after going through the interview, he was not selected. But he is determined and will apply again and hopefully also end up joining Rotary and become a good Rotarian. On Saturday a small group of Rotarians lead by Steve Waldner completed another segment of the wheelchair rated trail system of the Armand Bayou Nature Center. This time the club not only provided the labor but also the material and the heavy equipment to complete the work. Because the material the club provided was more than the quantity required for the segment, volunteers from the Nature Center with the use of a tractor the club continues to provide are completing another segment of trail. Committee chairs, David Coney and Ted Cummings are in the verge of having the Interact and the Rotaract clubs respectively organized and registered with Rotary International. Both have identified the group of student participants and have scheduled the organizational meeting. Before the end of this year our club should again be sponsoring a Rotaract and an Interact clubs. Last Thursday, Rotarians under the leadership of Stan Galanski visited MD Anderson Children Cancer Hospital and met with a group of children that are already benefiting from the training and recreational equipment the club donated. The head of the Children Department will be scheduled to speak to our club during one of our meetings in May, where she wants, not only thank our members, but also explain the importance the items donated have in the treatment and recovery process of the children cancer patients. The Health and Safety Committee, chaired by Sheryl Burg responded to the need from the Boys and Girls Harbor of having a defibrillator installed in their facility. The State requires this type of facility that houses children and conducts games and sports activities to have a defibrillator unit available. The committee used part of their budgeted money to buy a Defibrillator and delivered it to Boys and Girls Harbor. These are only but a few of activities going on in our club. Most of our members, if not all, are involved and very busy working on things to come such as the Law Enforcement of the Year Awards, the Excellence in Education Awards, Springoree, RNASA Awards Dinner, Blood Donation Drive, Memorial Club meeting at the Memorial site, and others. And lets not forget the District Assembly on April 18 and the District Conference at the end of April. Also and most important, is the response of our members in bringing friends and business associates to the club meetings, which have resulted in more than 4 new proposed members being approved by the Board this month. With this effort going on, it would not be surprising if we end up the year with an increase in members of close to fifteen. Let's all be aware of the importance of bringing new members to the club and make our contributions.

Yours in Rotary,  
Mike Hernandez

**MAUI WOWI  
Shelley Smith**

**MERRILL LYNCH**

**Jerry & Bill  
Smith**

**MRI  
TECHNOLOGIES**

**Tim Kropp**

**PROSPERITY  
BANK**

**Mark Humphrey**

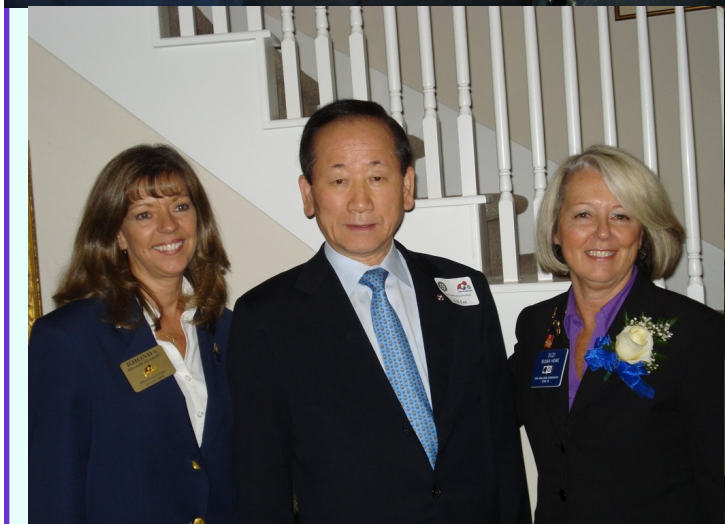


**SPACE CENTER  
AUTOMOTIVE**  
Jerrold Dewease

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

**TEXAS  
CITIZENS BANK**  
Mike Cornett

**TEXAS WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT**  
Mike Hesse



*Clockwise from top left: DG Rhonda Kennedy, RI Pres. D K Lee & Pres. Mike Hernandez; DG Rhonda, RI Pres. Lee, SCRC Mbr Courtney Lindberg & PE Jon McKinnie; RI Pres. Lee receives gift; Pres. Lee & other Rotarians listen to the explanation of the EVA training activities that take place at the Neutral Buoyancy Lab.; DG Rhonda, RI Pres. Lee & PDG Suzi Howe.*

**GENE & DONNA  
TROMBLEE**

**UNIVERSITY OF  
HOUSTON  
CLEAR LAKE  
CAMPUS**

**WALDRON  
&  
SCHNEIDER**  
Attorneys at Law

**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.**



## **HELP WANTED**

Wanted - Assistant Photographer: to photograph Space Center Rotary Club events. Join existing Photographic Committee, equipment provided, minimum experience desired. Instruction available. Great working conditions among your friends and neighbors. Contact Bob Mitchell for details, 281-333-2881 or [mitchell.rw@comcast.net](mailto:mitchell.rw@comcast.net).



*Pics from the past by Bob Mitchell: left — Harris Count Judge Ed Emmett, SCRC Pres. Mike, Past Pres. Vissett Sun & Program Chair, Kippy Caraway. Right — SCRC mbr, Ken Gurry & U. S. Congressman, Pete Olson.*

**THIS SPACE**

**IS RESERVED**

**FOR MORE**

**SPONSORS**

## Rotary Club of Space Center Offices and Directors - 2009-2010

### Officers:

Jon McKinnie, President  
 John Wilson, President-Elect  
 Marilyn Musial, Secretary  
 Mike Dennard, Treasurer  
 Sheryl Berg, Sergeant-at-Arms  
 Mike Hernandez, Immediate Past President

### Directors:

John Nugent (2008-2011)  
 Mark Humphrey (2006-2009)

Bill Lowes (2009-2012)

Bill Geissler (2008-2011)

Earl Maudlin (2009-2012)  
 David Coney (2007-2010)

Belinda Skloss (2007-2010)

Dick Hergert (2007-2010)

David Coney (2007-2010)  
 Mike Cornett (2006-2009)

Pat Doughty  
 Dick Kidder (2006-2009)

Rae DeCastro (2008-2011)

### Club Service

Programs - John Nugent  
 Directory and Web Page - Jon McKinnie  
 Club History- Jerrold Dewease  
 Memorial - Laura Hale  
 Constitution/By Laws - Billy Smith  
 Public Relations & Fellowship  
 Fellowship - Roger Donnelly  
 Bulletin & Communications - Billy Smith  
 Photography - Bob Mitchell  
 Public Information - Mary Alys Cherry  
 Golf - Dick Kidder  
 Wine Club - Gary Johnson  
 Membership  
 Attendance - Bill Geissler  
 Classification - Scott Rainey  
 Recruitment & Retention - Kippy Caraway  
 Fund Raising  
 Grants - Geoff Atwater ?  
 Shrimporee - John Wilson  
 Springoree - Steve Owens ?  
 Sponsors - Scott Rainey  
 Community Service A  
 Interact - Dave Coney  
 Rotaract - Ted Cummings  
 Youth Activities - Marc Schneider  
 Community Service B  
 Senior Citizens - Steve Waldner  
 Health and Safety -  
 Scholarships - Belinda Skloss  
 Environmental - Courtney Lindberg  
 International Service A  
 Rotary Foundation - David Coney  
 SCR Endowment - Bob Wren  
 Ambassadorial Scholars -  
 International Service B  
 GSE Activities - Bill Geissler  
 Int'l Youth Exchange - Dick Meyer  
 World Health - Dick Kidder/JB Fox  
 Vocational Services  
 Excellence in Education - David Coney  
 Excellence in Public Service - Phil Sandlin  
 RNASA - Rodolfo Gonzalez