



the Blastoff



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 46 : Number 32 * March 31, 2008

Programs:

**Today.. a presentation by the JSC Chapter
of Engineers without Borders**

Apr 07. Rick Noriega
Apr 14. Toros
Apr 21. TBD
Apr 28. GSE Team France
May 05. Excellence in Education Awards
May 12. TBD
May 19. TBD
May 26. Memorial Day, **No Meeting**
June 02. PE, Gary Johnson -- Shrimporee 2008
June 09. Public Service Recognition Awards — EMTs
June 16. Jay Wall / Crime in Houston and what to do about it.
June 23. Year end directors' reports
June 30. Pres. Dick— Remarks & Awards

Say Happy Birthday to —

Nanci Rutledge. March 1st
Owen Morris. March 3rd
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

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.
- Springoree. May 8
- Texas Roadhouse Golf Tournament
- Monday, June 30 @ Bay Oaks CC
- RI Convention, Los Angeles. . . June 15-18 '08

SCRC Fellowships 6:30 p.m.

Apr 08. **Topwater Grill** 815 Ave O, San Leon
Apr 22. **Clifton by Sea** Clifton, Tx,
May 06. **Colosseum** 16608 El Camino Real
June 10. **Boondoggles** 4106 NASA Pkwy, El Lago
Apr 15.
Apr 24. **Rudy & Paco's** Galveston
May 6. **Frenchie's Restaurant** 1041 Nasa Parkway
June 17. **Bay Oaks Country Club** Pool Party,
Bring Grandchildren

ATTENTION

**Tony Bloomfield &
Texas Roadhouse will
again sponsor a golf
tournament that will
benefit SCRC.
Monday June 30th @
Bay Oaks CC after
the club meeting.
Shrimporee sponsors
will get a free ride.**



PE, Mike, got some OJT filling in for Pres. Dick, while Dick played in the Chamber Golf Tournament.



Scott Rainey talked about Springoree & advised all to make their reservations ASAP.



Stan Galanski called attention to the article in *The Rotarian* re: the Bolivian water projects. See page 26 of the March issue.



The lunch bunch.



A visiting Rotarian is introduced.



Banners are exchanged.



Dick Meyer tells the audience that three space vehicles may be seen in the night sky on Tuesday March 25th @ 7:28 p.m.; a unique event.



When: Thursday May 8th

Where: Under The Oaks – League City

What: VIP Event – Silent & Live Auctions

•Dinner

•Live Music by Ja'ndo

•Connoisseur Club – Select wine tasting from the wine cellar of

•Mike & Rosie Hesse

•Tickets: Event: \$100.00 per person

•Connoisseur Club Extra

•Next Planning Meeting: Wed. 3/19 @ 5:45 PM

•At Under the Oaks

Rotary on YouTube

Rotary has joined the YouTube generation. Rotary International's innovative new YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/rotaryinternational features a collection of Rotary-produced videos, including *Humanity in Motion* public service announcements and a variety of stories from RVM: *The Rotarian Video Magazine*. This means that Rotary's message is poised to reach a fresh audience of millions of people. Club's and districts are using YouTube to promote service activities, recruit new members and raise funds for projects.



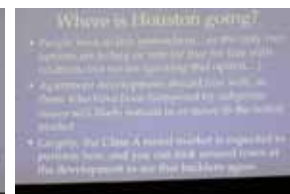
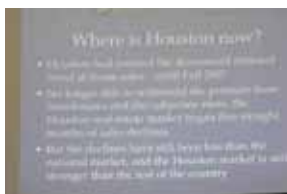
Vince Lipovsky told us the meaning of Floyd Boze's last name in Slavic. Floyd was very amused.



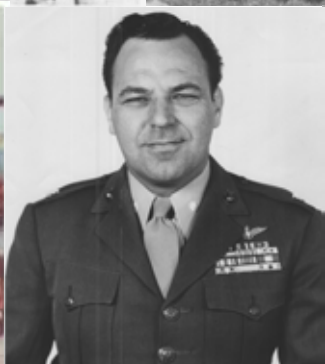
John Nugent introduced the speaker, Houston Association of Realtors Chair of the Board Michael Levitin.



The audience was told that Houston is doing exceedingly well compared to the nation. Following are some screen shots from the PowerPoint presentation:



Vincent “Vince” Lipovsky was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on November 28, 1919. In 1956 he moved to Boston, Massachusetts. A graduate of the University of Connecticut with a BS in Industrial Management & Mechanical Engineering, Vince and wife, Florence, have been married 56 years and have two children, a son who is a patent attorney in California and a daughter who is an Interior Designer and lives in Seabrook with her son a college student, Vince and Florence. Vince (26) and two brothers, Matthew (28) and Stephen (23), volunteered for military service in WWII, all in the Navy. Inspired to be a pilot by Charles Lindberg’s Atlantic crossing in 1927, Vince joined the Civilian Military Training Camps in 1937. He became a V-5 Navy Cadet in 1942 and was commissioned into the U. S. Marine Corps in 1943. As a USMC fighter pilot in the South Pacific, he received initial training on Midway and then was transferred to Vella Lavella, north of Guadalcanal where he flew his first Corsair F-4U (the gull wing) on his 24th birthday. His squadron shared an airstrip with “Pappy” Boyington’s Black Sheep Squadron (depicted in a TV series and played by Robert Conrad) and flew missions with Boyington as flight leader. On one mission, his Corsair’s tail wheel was hit by shrapnel during take off so he had to abort and get a new plane. As he left the injured plane, it was hit by a Japanese mortar and totally destroyed. As a civilian, Charles Lindberg joined the squadron and Lt. Lipovsky together with two other Marine pilots escorted Lindberg on “targets of opportunity” missions. Vince flew 66 missions in the Pacific earning a Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Following WWII, Vince joined the New York Reserves where he became a jet fighter pilot flying the FH-1. Vince entered the University of Connecticut to complete his education. In 1951, he was recalled to duty in the Korean conflict and flew 33 missions as a photo recon pilot in the Banshee jet (MacDonald’ 2H2P). Flying and shooting thousands of aerial photos over the Commie badlands, Vince miraculously eluded the enemy artillery. But, on one occasion, he was jumped by several enemy fighters who gave chase as Vince (without weapons) fled the scene. Fortunately, the flying cavalry came to the rescue just in time. The plane Vince flew is on display at the Naval Air Museum at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida. A couple of years ago, your editor visited the museum and took several pictures of Vince’s Banshee which he gave to Vince. Returning from his tour of duty in Korea, Major Lipovsky worked on the ICBM missile program as a senior test engineer and the Apollo space program for which his employer built the re-entry vehicle heat shield. Vince retired from the USMC as a Lt. Colonel. There is a lot more to tell, but your editor is concerned that he can’t keep the facts straight as Vince has related his experiences during lunch over many years of Rotary meetings. However, there one where Vince’s wingman shot the tail off Vince’s plane and he had to ditch in the Pacific. After several hours in his small life raft afloat in shark infested waters, he was rescued exhausted, thirsty and hungry, but ready to get back in the cockpit. Following are some pictures Vince has agreed to share. Ladies, he’s taken, but doesn’t he look like a movie star? Vince is the sole remaining charter member of SCRC.



Photos on previous page clockwise from upper left: the Black Sheep Squadron on the wings of a F-4U Corsair (Pappy Boyington is on the left wing closest to the cockpit); Cols. Vince & John Lee at the air show (notice the loose fit of Vince's Marine uniform); Vince's Banshee (this one is on display at the Naval Air Museum — Pensacola); Vince and two Squadron members with Charles Lindberg (Vince 2nd from left & Lindberg to his left); a double wedding (Vince & Florence on left and Vince's brother and bride on right); Vince and brothers; Cadet Vince; Capt. Vince; Lt. Vince; Lt. Col. Vince & Maj. Vince with his Banshee.



NOTE - I, VINCE LIPOVSKY, FLEW THIS PLANE, BU. NO. 17896 3 TIMES ON DEC. 26, 1943, FOR A TOTAL OF 7.1 HRS, ON A SEARCH FOR OUR PILOT BERNIE SAHL. I WAS ONE OF THE BLACK SHEEP PILOTS, #1 PAPPY BOYINGTON, #2 CHRIS MCGEE, #3 BR. MATHESON & OTHERS FROM VMF 214, #4 MY SQUAD, VMF 223, ALSO FLEW "896" AT OTHER TIMES FROM VELLA LAVELLA (IS) IN THE SO. PACIFIC WAR AREA. #4 M'CLURG?

Another picture of the Black Sheep Squadron. Vince flew this plane three times on December 26, 1943.

For those who did not see this in *The Citizen*, it is with great sadness that I report the passing of Col. John Watson, USAF Ret. & President of SCRC 1989-1990. John was a great Rotarian and I was proud to serve as his President Elect and to fill in when he was on travel. At the suggestion of Bob Wren & Floyd Boze during the year previous to John's term, as President, John gave me the task of forming the Space Center Rotary Club Endowment Foundation. John served on the founding committee of RNASAF and was instrumental in getting that program started. Our prayers and condolences are for his wife, Carolyn, their daughters and other family members. God's speed, John.



Services are held for John Watson

Memorial services for Air Force Col. (Ret.) John T. Watson, former commander of the Manned Space Flight Support Group at Johnson Space Center, were held Wednesday, March 19, at Air Force Village II in San Antonio.

He died there March 13 at the age of 77.

A native of North Carrollton, Miss., he was the son of Eva and the Rev. Jesse F. Watson. Shortly after graduating from Southern Methodist University in Dallas in

1954, he entered USAF pilot training, earning his wings in 1956. He then went on to earn his M.S. in Electrical Engineering from SMU.

After a variety of Air Force assignments throughout the world, he was assigned to Shaw AFB in South Carolina as flight commander and operations officer in 1971.

He transferred to his last assignment at the Johnson Space Center in 1976.

After retiring from the Air

Force in 1980, Watson served as vice president of the aerospace consulting firm, Eagle Engineering, and was president of Space Center Rotary in Clear Lake in 1985-86.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; three daughters, Catherine, Karen and Connie; as four grandchildren, Chris, Alex, John and Adam.

Watson was buried with full military honors March 20 in a private ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Lest we forget. Here are some pics of Hurricane Katrina as it came ashore at Magee, MS through which the eye passed, 150 miles north of Waveland where the storm made land fall.



The following picture was taken from the third story balcony of Saint Stanislaus College located next door to Our Lady of the Gulf church in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi on the morning of August 29th, 2005. This is believed to be the initial tidal wave from Hurricane Katrina. The tidal wave was approximately 35 to 40 feet high. When it slammed into the beach front communities of Bay Saint Louis and Waveland Mississippi to completely destroy 99% of every structure along the beach for 9 miles and over a mile inland. The destruction only started there. The flooding that continued inland destroyed the contents of all but 35 homes in these two communities of approximately 14,000 people.





1ST. ANNUAL ROTARY CLUB CHILI COOKOFF

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AT OUR 1ST. ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF
COME SAMPLE THE CHILI AND ENJOY COLD BEER & WINE
WITH TONS OF PRIZES TO WIN AT OUR AWESOME SILENT AUCTION!



ADMISSION IS ONLY A \$10.00 DONATION PER PERSON

With 50% of ALL Donations Going to the Top (3) Winning Teams



1st. Place Team Will Receive a Trophy & 60% of the Prize Money.

2nd. Place Team Will Receive a Trophy & 30% of the Prize Money.

3rd. Place Team Will Receive a Trophy & 10% of the Prize Money.



Peoples Choice Will Receive a Trophy & The Bucket of Money Votes



WINNERS WILL BE JUDGED BY
A PANEL OF JUDGES



MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON ONE OF THESE CHILI POTS



AND EARN GREAT REWARDS FOR YOUR CLUB

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

5:30PM-7:30PM



Hosted by Fellow Rotarian: Mike Kacal @
KACAL'S AUTO & TRUCK SERVICE

5030 Old Spanish Trail @ Martin Luther King Blvd. * Houston, Texas 77021

Ph: 713-747-8076 * Fax: 713-747-8773

RSVP: 713-644-7789 to John Hinojosa

2008 Space Center Rotary Springoree's Connoisseur Club

- ☺ **Taste outstanding, nearly impossible to find, well-aged wines**
- ☺ **Only 50 Connoisseur Club reservations are available at \$100 each**
- ☺ **Receive 6 approximate 3 oz. pours from your choice of the 9 wines listed below (substitutions are not anticipated but are possible).**
- ☺ **6 bottles of each wine will be available, which is approximately 48 pours per wine, so start early for best selection.**
- ☺ **All wines have been donated from Rosie and Mike Hesse's extensive collection**

White Wines:

2000 Rochioli Sauvignon Blanc, Russian River Valley, Estate Grown

Excellent minerality, weight, and concentration. Rochioli's what all other California Sauvignon Blanc's are measured against. The standard bearer. El jefe!

2003 Darioush Viognier, Napa Valley

If you normally drink Chardonnay, try this! Round mouth feel kind of like a Chardonnay, but with cleaner, wonderful, tropical flavors. Simply lovely. From one of the hottest "new cult" wineries in Napa.

Red Wines:

1996 Roche Pinot Noir, Barrel Select Reserve, Carneros, Napa Valley

From a small, exclusive producer whose wines are only available at the winery. The age is showing a little in this wine, but not overbearingly so. Possesses dark cranberry fruit flavors and is from one of America's finest Pinot growing areas.

1994 Renwood Zinfandel, Old Vine, Amador County

"Pure cherry pie." Fruit sourced from some of the oldest vines in these United States and "That's all I have to say about that!"

1995 Chateau Labegorce Zede Margaux, Bordeaux, France

Beautiful integration and seductive, almost sensual fruit characterize this as well as many other fine Margaux's. From a great year and likely drinking near its peak right now.

1991 Sullivan Vineyards Merlot, Napa Valley, Estate Grown

Sullivan Merlots from the famous Napa cabernet area of Rutherford age like a Cabernet. This is a big, serious, "Rutherford dust" Merlot.

1990 Stags Leap Wine Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

A classic and well established Napa cabernet, softened with age and definitely "more-ish". Mikey says, "Try it, you'll like it."

1994 Estancia Meritage, Alexander Valley (66 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 27 % Cabernet Franc, 7 % Merlot)

This wine is a Bordeaux blend, but unlike the feminine Margaux above, this is a manly man's wine. This is the Jack La Lanne (an old, strong guy, for you younguns) of the tasting.

Dessert Wine:

2003 Kalyra, Orange Muscat, California

Made by a Santa Barbara area winery owned by Aussies and made famous by the movie "Sideways", this sweet, honeyed, apricot tasting wine can alone be your dessert, or try a sip along with your dessert to enhance the experience.