

# 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

May 11, 2009

Editor: Billy Smith

Photographer: Bob Mitchell



## A message from Pres. Mike:

*OH!! What a week end! As you know the District Conference was held during the May 1st week end. To start with, our own Sofia, exchange student from Sweden, won the longest drive at the golf tournament! Then on Saturday night, during the Awards Dinner, our Assistant District Governor, Chris Schneider was selected and given the ADG of the Year Award! Then Jon McKinnie was called up to the stage and to his surprise was given the Rotarian of the Year Award, what an honor! Emotions were already going pretty high among all of our members present at the event. Then to top it all, at the last award of the night, The Rotary Club of Space Center got selected and given the District Large Club of the Year Award!! What an Honor to our Club and our members; an acknowledgement of the efforts and contributions that every member made that allowed the club to achieve this coveted award. Believe me, there are a lot of excellent clubs in our District. Many were recognized during the Conference for a specific type of accomplishment. It is my opinion that what impressed our Governor the most, was when she was going down the check list of all of the possible areas of involvement that a Rotary club could have, we not only had a check mark as participants in all of them, but we were showing good projects throughout and many times we were involved with more than one significant project. I can not be more convinced that this was EVERY member's accomplishment. Everyone without exception has, to a more or less degree, made a contribution and for that you should be proud. This is your award and you help make it happen. Going down the page on how many A's we find in the activities we had: Regularity of club meetings and significance of programs; quality of our directory and web page; effectiveness of our handling of club affairs, such as board meetings, regulations, reports, critical issues and finances; frequency and quality of fellowship events, we average a couple of evening fellowships and golf outings a month, besides the pancake breakfasts and the Christmas Fellowship Dinner; quality and frequency of our news letter, news paper publications, articles, and member information; meeting attendance, recruiting and retention and increase in membership, we increased by 8 members; quality and results of fund raising activities, our Shrimporee's theme and activities were related to the Rotary theme of Making Dreams Real and reducing children*

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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. Bob Hodgins**

***Economic Forecast***

*May 18th . . . . MD Anderson Donated Equipment*

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

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

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

*June 15th . . . . TBD*

*June 22nd . . . Club Assembly: Review of Year's Accomplishments*

*June 29th . . . Installation of Officers & Directors for 2009-2010*

***Bring a Guest!!***

**Say Happy Birthday to —**

David Coney . . . . .	May 4th
Laura Godwin . . . . .	May 9th
Alan Wylie . . . . .	May 10th
Tom Kloves . . . . .	May 10th
Bob Wren . . . . .	May 12th
Jim Hargrove . . . . .	May 12th
Luciano Gaigher . . . . .	May 14th
Carlos Villagomez . . . . .	May 20th
Geoff Atwater . . . . .	May 20th

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

## SCRC SOCIALS

**Contact Roger Donnelly.**

[Ridonnelly@aol.com](mailto: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.  
**Springoree** ..... May 14th  
**100th RI Convention, Birmingham, England** ..... June 21 — 24, 2009

### NEWS ABOUT PAST PRESIDENT, JIM WYATT

I just had a great conversation with Mary Ellen and Jim Wyatt. He sounds great...After a very tough summer and several lung infections , he has a new plumonary doctor who takes very good care of him....He is on oxygen, has 29% lung function, but sounds great. He says he “really misses the guys” and to tell everyone hello. His new email address is....

[jwmw658t@verizon.net](mailto:jwmw658t@verizon.net)

Laura Hale, PP



*The age of maturity is that age at which one is still young but is much more resourceful.*



*What most torments me about the foolishness of my youth, is not the crazy things I have done...but the fact that I can't go back and do them again.*

**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



**GAY & REITZ**  
Attorneys at Law

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

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

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

## 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)

## Expedition 18 Space Center Houston Crew Debrief

The Expedition 18 Crew Debrief, featuring crew members Mike Fincke and Sandy Magnus, will be held on Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Space Center Houston Northrop Grumman Theater. The event will consist of an awards presentation, crew presentation with slides and video and a question-and-answer session for the crew. This event is open to JSC employees, contractors, friends, family members and public guests. Admission is free.

## WATCH RAFFLE TICKETS

**\$10 each or 6 for \$50**



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

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

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

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

## 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 donations 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.



**L. D. BOWLES  
ASSOCIATES**

**Lamar Bowles**

**LAS COLINAS  
CUSTOM  
INTEIORS**

**Rae DeCastro**

**LEXUS OF  
CLEAR LAKE**

**Joey Dupuis**

**EARL  
&  
TERRILEE  
MAUDLIN**

### **THE HISTORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SPACE CENTER (HOUSTON)**

- Sponsored by the La Porte Rotary Club, Space Center Rotary Club (Houston) was chartered by Rotary International on August 6, 1964 and became part of Rotary District 589, now 5890.
- This completed a process that began in 1963, only a short time after the announcement of the location of a NASA center in what was to become known as the Clear Lake Area of Houston.
- These words of recommendation were sent to the District Governor and forwarded to Rotary International: *"Having visited this area on several occasions, I am literally overwhelmed with the vast amount of building and new businesses moving into the area. As you know, predications are that by 1970 there will be 250,000 people living in the immediate area. It is equivalent to a city the size of Austin, Texas. New places of businesses are opening just as rapidly as space is available. It appears from a brief discussion of its possibilities that there will be a least 200 good solid Rotary classifications in the area within the next five years. Many large companies, professional men, and smaller businesses have signed contracts for space just as rapidly as arrangements can be made to accommodate them. I have reference to such companies as Joskes, Foleys, perhaps Sakowitz, and others. Also several new churches and schools will be in operation in the area soon. This looks like an ideal area to start a fine Rotary Club. The people I have met and talked with will make good Rotarians. It is my recommendation to proceed as rapidly as possible."*
- The Charter Presentation Banquet as held on the evening of September 28, 1964 at the Houston Yacht Club. It is reported that 184 tickets were sold at \$4.50 each.
- Ivan Brown, then President of Nassau Bay National Bank (now Bank of America), was the club's first president and served two terms. Mike Hernandez, our current president, is number 44 in a long line of servant leaders who have assured that the ideals of Rotary will always be upheld and that the Rotary motto of *Service Above Self* will be lived by each Space Center Rotarian.
- Gordon Cooper, one of the original astronauts, was listed among the initial members. Later, Frank Borman and Buzz Aldrin would join the ranks of Space Center Rotarians.
- The new club met weekly on Monday at 12:15 p.m. at the King's Inn on NASA Road One in Nassau Bay.
- The initiation fee for new members was \$20.00 and the annual dues were \$25.00.
- The club's banner was designed by member, Martin Gracy, in 1965 and immediately approved. That design remains unchanged today and a small replica was flown around the moon on an Apollo Mission. Martin became the club's second president.
- For years, even after moving from the area and resigning his membership, Martin Gracy, a man with an Irish brogue, provided green beer for the club meeting which was closest to St. Patrick's Day.
- Early club service to the community included work to establish a public library. Temporary quarters for the library were established in the Clear Lake City Recreation Center in January 1965, only a few months after the club had its inception.
- Other notable projects have included major financial support of the Ed White Youth Center at the Seabrook Methodist Church; an ambulance for the Clear Lake Emergency Medical Services; a van donated to the Seaman's Center at the Houston Ship Channel; a van donated to Clear Lake Community in Schools; support for the Boy Scouts of America and the YMCA and many other community service projects, too numerous to list at this time.
- With its annual Shrimporree in the Fall, which was first held in 1974, the annual Springoree in the Spring, and other fund raising projects, many dollars have been collected and returned to the Clear Lake Community as Rotary service.
- In the mid-1980s, members of this club conceived the idea of an annual award for notable achievement in the industry of Space Exploration and the first annual awards dinner was held within two years. The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement has become the most prestigious of its kind and is held in Houston each Spring.
- Another mile-stone achievement of the Space Center Rotary Club was the creation of the Rotary World Health Foundation. The original idea was to bring children from all over the world to undergo corrective plastic surgery by Dr. Abdel Fustok, who donated his services and expertise at St. John's Hospital, which also agreed to donate its facilities and staff. Many babies and young people, from those born with cleft pallets to some injured in fire and explosions have had their lives positively changed in the process.

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**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

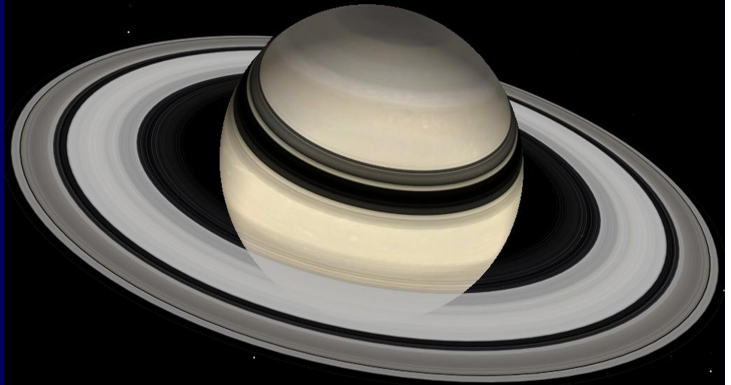
**TEXAS  
CITIZENS BANK**  
Mike Cornett

**TEXAS WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT**  
Mike Hesse

**Words to live by:**

**The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do —**

1. **Is it the TRUTH?**
2. **Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
3. **Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
4. **Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**



**SATURN FROM HUBBLE**



**Foreign Exchange Student  
News**

Inbound student, Jen, from  
Thailand & Friends



**GENE & DONNA  
TROMBLEE**

**UNIVERSITY OF  
HOUSTON  
CLEAR LAKE  
CAMPUS**

**WALDRON  
&  
SCHNEIDER**  
Attorneys at Law

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

<b>THE CITIZEN</b>  <b>Mary Alys Cherry</b>	<b>TEXAS ROADHOUSE</b> <b>Tony &amp; Sharon Bloomfield</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON</b> <b>CLEAR LAKE CAMPUS</b>	<b>Your name could appear here.</b>
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**Continued from page 5:**

- This club has always been progressive, but at the same time true to Rotary traditions. Founded in 1905 as an all male organization, women were first allowed to become Rotarians in the late 1980s. Without a grumble or dissent, the board of Space Center Rotary Club determined to embrace this change and to immediately seek to recruit the female leadership in this community as members. As its 26<sup>th</sup> president, Billy Smith, had to honor of appointing the first female to the board in 1990. She later became its first female president. Others have followed, even one rising to the position of District Governor.
- Fifteen of the club’s Past Presidents are current members.
- Three Space Center Rotarians have been elevated to the post of District Governor. They are Floyd Boze, Billy Weseman, and Suzi Howe, all still members.
- Only one of the charter members, Vince Lipovsky is still a member, but he is a great representative of those gentlemen who started is all.
- With leadership by Charles Hartman, former president, Space Center Rotary Club sponsored and helped organize the Seabrook Rotary Club.
- In brief, that is the history of this outstanding organization.



A fragment of the Swan Nebula, located at 5,500 light years away, described as “a bubbling ocean of hydrogen with small amounts of oxygen, sulfur and other elements”.

<b>THIS SPACE</b>	<b>IS RESERVED</b>	<b>FOR MORE</b>	<b>SPONSORS</b>
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mortality; other local children related projects, such as the donation of the Children Literacy Center to the local Library, the donation of a Defibrillator to the Boys and Girls Harbor, donation of equipment to the MD Anderson Children Hospital, donation to CCISD for clothing to Ike affected children, sponsoring 10 children to receive life saving swimming lessons, and supporting a group of Boy Scouts to attend summer camp; international children health related projects, such as water purification in Rwanda, Bolivia, and Mexico, contribution to Guerrero clinic and orphanage, and clothing to children in Nicaragua; local community projects like our now yearly Valentine's Day Roses of Love to senior citizens, Trails construction in Armand Bayou Nature Center, our upcoming Blood Donation Drive ( I should say that our Governor mentioned twice during the Conference the Roses on Valentine's Day and the donations to the MD Anderson Children Cancer Hospital projects); other important areas such as the eminent start of the Interact and Rotaract clubs; our number of Scholar Ships to High School students; sponsoring an Ambassadorial Scholar and supporting a GSE group; our members' participation in District level activities; members' attendance to District activities; Participation in Rotary International Foundation activities and contribution levels, we surpassed our pledged contribution to Polio Plus as well as to the Annual Fund; our club's having achieved Presidential Citation; our level of participation in Youth Exchange Program with two inbounds and one outbound plus two short term Summer exchange; our club having not only one, but two Foundations, the Endowment Foundation and the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Foundation (RNASA); our recognition of excellence in vocational service, to an Educator and a Public Servant. So as you can see every one's involvement in the club made it possible for us to receive the Award. And that weekend was followed by a very special Monday meeting day. When we gathered to remember and celebrate the life of all our club members that have passed away. I firmly believe that our friends and family members that have passed away are watching over us and give us a hand when hard times come, as well as an extra push once in a while to help us achieve even higher goals. I feel those members, we recognized and remember last Monday, have just done that. They have given us an extra push so we could end up with the Club of the Year Award. We also dedicate the Cub of the Year Award to all the members that has passed, but that have laid the foundation and bases of our great club of Space Center.

Yours in Rotary Service,  
Mike





