

# *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 18, 2009**  
Editor: *Billy Smith*

Photographer: *Bob Mitchell*

Ass't. Photographer: *Jon Lee*



## **A message from Pres. Mike:**

Another Successful Springoree Fund Raiser! Over 130 Rotarians and friends gathered last Thursday evening at Bailey's American Grille for a great time of fellowship with good music, excellent wine and food, and of course the opportunity to contribute monetarily to the club's future service projects and at the same time to acquire some great items being auctioned. Thanks to the efforts of a number of Rotarians under the leadership of Springoree Chair, Steve Owens, that put together every aspect of the event, the donors of auction items and raffle item, the sponsor companies and the attendees to the Springoree that reached down to their pockets and so generously bid for the many auctioned items, we had another successful Springoree. By my rough calculations we brought over \$17,000 from the 16 live auction items, on top of that we have the proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets and the more than 30 sold silent auction items. We even put to good use 50 tickets donated by the Astros for the game of May 21st that were not sold in the live auction. The tickets have been donated to the Boys and Girls Harbor for abused and abandoned children to enjoy a day at the Ball Park. Our club was also honored to have in attendance to the Springoree our District Governor, Rhonda Kennedy, District Governor Nominee, Sunny Sharman and his wife, Rashmi, and District Governor Nominee Designate, Rhonda Walls Kerby. My sincere appreciation and congratulations to everyone that helped make this wonderful evening possible! The program for today's Club meeting will be divided in two parts.

*Continued on page 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 ..**

**SCRC Endowment Founda-  
tion & 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.**



*Message from the President: continued from page 1 —*

The SCR Endowment Foundation will talk about their purpose and activities, followed by the Club presenting the Foundation with a donation of \$2,500 and to Floyd Boze with a framed picture of all the Floyd Boze Fellows. The second part of the program will consist of a presentation from Sheila Brown, Head of the Children Life program at the MD Anderson Children Cancer Hospital of the activities at the hospital to help cancer affected children cope with their sickness and the importance of the equipment the Club donated in helping in that effort. REMEMBER that Tuesday is the Board meeting at 7 am at Bay Oaks, and Tuesday at 11:30 is the Luncheon and Awards to District Teachers at South Shore Harbor. Also REMEMBER that on May 30th our club will be conducting the BLOOD DONATION DRIVE, starting at 10 am at the Wall Mart in League City. REMEMBER that the following Monday, May 25th is MEMORIAL DAY and therefore no club meeting. Our next Club meeting will be on June 1st.

Yours in Rotary,  
Mike

### **What is important about Rotary to you personally?**

I have met so many people – people with polio who want to find a way to eradicate the disease worldwide. When I invited Debbie Savage to visit our club in her wheelchair several years ago, I had no idea that now I would be raising \$200M to meet the Bill Gates Challenge to eradicate polio. During that meeting one of our members came to me, and said he had polio. Since then I have met many Texans that have post-polio syndrome. I met Mikail Davenport who pedaled across Texas to publicize his disability. He is featured in the Academy Award nominated film “The Final Inch” now seen on HBO. Our own charter member and now with Sugar Land Rotary David Shaw has polio. Harrisburg Rotary’s President Elect Nathan \_\_\_\_ has polio. Last fall 39 Houston Rotarians traveled to India for a National Immunization Day to bring attention to our challenge. If you attended our District Conference at L’auberge Du Lac last week in Lake Charles , you heard their presentation. If we continue with our current push to immunize children worldwide, it will cost us less than if we continue on the previous path of treating 200,000 new cases per year. We can eradicate polio. We have done it in all but 4 countries: Pakistan , Afghanistan , India , and Nigeria . In these countries there are cease-fires to immunize the children. Mikail, David, Nathan and Debbie do not want another child to have the disease that set the course of their own lives. No child should be exposed to the results of the polio virus. Join us for the United Nations Day Oct. 24 where Rotary Clubs worldwide will be sharing our efforts to End Polio Now.

*Suzi Howe, Zone 26 \$200M Challenge Coordinator*  
D.5890 Foundation Chair, 2008-11  
District Governor 2006-2007  
Rotary International District 5890



Donate US\$5.00  
Text “polio” to 90999



**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.**  
**100th RI Convention, Birmingham, England** ..... **June 21 — 24, 2009**

**The Hope & Relief International Relief Foundation** is planning our next trip to Nicaragua which is scheduled to leave on July 14 and return on July 21, 2009. This is an uplifting experience that will stay with you for life. During this trip you will have the opportunity to visit all the projects that we have developed over the past ten years thanks to your generous contributions. You will be able to see: The School of the Children of the Dump, Santa Lucia (house of the blind), Betania (the trade school), Village Santa Matilde (the new vision of Rotary of breaking the cycle of poverty), The Village Aldeia Rotaria, The new village of El Menco (Our latest project) and much more. We will include two fun days in this trip. We will spend one day at Montelymar (an all inclusive resort on the Pacific) and one day for a Canopy Tour (zip line through the trees on the side of a volcano). I will be sending out an itinerary within the next week. Our incoming District Governor of District 5890, Ed Charlesworth and his wife, Robin, will be going with us and we would like to have you accompany us. Please share this information with your friends who might like to go.

This will be a great trip, so please help us get the word out to everyone. Hope to see you then,  
Jim Kite, Hope & Relief International Foundation, Inc., 10700 Gerke Road, Brenham, Texas 77833  
Telephone: 979-836-5607 • Fax: 979-836-0614 • Email: [jimkite@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimkite@sbcglobal.net)



Rotarian Robert Hall greets children who will be vaccinated against polio during a National Immunization Day, Moradabad, India.

*Photo by Alyce Henson*

**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

## Ass't Photographer Hired

**Jon Lee** has volunteered to be assistant photographer to back up Bob Mitchell. Thanks Jon for stepping up.

---

## EDITOR WANTED

Do you want a voice in Rotary? Is there something you think is not being said? Have you wished the editor would make the *Blastoff* more relevant? Are there too many pages of the weekly newsletter; too few? Too many pictures; not enough? Do you have an opinion? Now is your chance to be heard!

After several years of serving as *Blast-off* editor, Billy Smith is retiring and has given notice to Pres. Mike and PE Jon that his last edition will be June 29th.

So now it is your turn. Step up and do it your way. It is a great job and the pay is unworldly. As long as you are receiving a balance of praise and complaints, you can consider yourself doing a good job. Contact Bill Lowes, Director Club Service to apply.



Jennifer Keller's sister was the lucky winner of this beautiful Tag Huer wristwatch donated by Travis Vermeer & Ben Bridge Jewelers. Thank you Travis.

*A good time was had by all in attendance at the SCRC Springoree. The wine flowed freely & wallets were generously opened for auction items. Brad Bailey & crew served a very tasty meal. The music put all in a party mood. Laura Godwin & Nanci Rutledge were beautiful models. Steve Owen & his most able gang put on a great party. Mike & Rosie Hesse were most generous with their money & hospitality. If you missed it, I'm sorry, but mark you calendar now for next year. If you were there, what else can be said. Great job Rotarians & guests. Thank you!!*

**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  
INTERIORS**

**Rae DeCastro**

**LEXUS OF  
CLEAR LAKE**

**Joey Dupuis**

**EARL  
&  
TERRILEE  
MAUDLIN**

### **SCRC SOCIALS**

**[6:30 p.m. except June 19th @ 6:00 p.m.]**

June 2nd .....888 BISTRO, 16744 El Camino Real

June 19th .....BAY OAKS COUNTRY CLUB Pool Party (Bring children, grandchildren & friends)

July 14th .....DOS MAS, 103 W. Bay Area Blvd.

July 28th .....MELY'S SEABROOK, 3659 NASA Pkwy.

August 11th .....B J's, 515 West Bay Area Blvd.

August 24th .....COLESSEUM RESTAURANT, 16608 El Camino Real

**Contact Roger Donnelly.**

**Ridonnelly@aol.com**

### **TOP GUNS**



**Hot off the Internet**, these just discovered pictures of Johnny White & Scott Rainey who purchased a simulated fighter combat mission at the 2008 Springoree. This editor was given the real scoop at the Thursday 2009 event: According to an unnamed source, Johnny shot down Scott twice to Scott's one victory. Scott then became violently air sick and



had to retire from the confrontation. Scott, if this is not true, please email the editor with your rebuttal.

**MAUI WOWI  
Shelley Smith**

**MERRILL LYNCH**

**Jerry & Bill  
Smith**

**MRI  
TECHNOLOGIES**

**Tim Kropp**

**PROSPERITY  
BANK**

**Mark Humphrey**

<b>SPACE CENTER AUTOMOTIVE</b> Jerrold Dewease	<b>STATE FARM INSURANCE</b> Johnny R. White Agent	<b>TEXAS CITIZENS BANK</b> Mike Cornett	<b>TEXAS WEALTH MANAGEMENT</b> Mike Hesse
---	---	--	--

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Words to live by:</b></p> <p><b>The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do —</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Is it the TRUTH?</b></li> <li><b>2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?</b></li> <li><b>3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?</b></li> <li><b>4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?</b></li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Space Center Rotary Club</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Endowment Foundation Update</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Current Asset Value:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$140,625.00</b></p>
---	--



**Dr. Robert Hodgins**, Professor of Economics, University of Houston — Clear Lake Campus and noted forecaster was the featured speaker on May 11th. His topic: “What the heck is wrong with this economy?” (*Note: This is the editor’s title, not the speaker’s.*) Did he say what I think he said? “According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the U. S. personal savings rate as a percent of disposable income was 8.7 & 8.8 in 1970 & 1980, respectively, then down to 0.4 in 2008. America threw a party and spent like crazy.” So, excess spending got us into this mess. But then he said “The solution is for Americans to regain confidence and to start spending again.” First, the president said it is un-American not to save, then he said it is un-American not to spend. Isn’t this a great country? If you are not confused, please explain it to me. *The editor.*

At right, l to r:  
 Dr. Ted Cummings,  
 Dr. Hodgins &  
 PE Jon Mckinnie



<b>GENE &amp; DONNA TROMBLEE</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CLEAR LAKE CAMPUS</b>	<b>WALDRON &amp; SCHNEIDER</b> Attorneys at Law	<b>WalMart SuperCenter Baytown</b> 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>
---	---	--	---

## POLIO PLUS UPDATE

Throughout the world the battle to eradicate polio continues. For 2008 (as of 20 January 2009), there were 1,633 worldwide cases of polio. This includes 31 cases in Afghanistan, 552 in India, 790 in Nigeria, and 118 in Pakistan, according to the March 2009 issue of End Polio Now. Subscribe to the RI's free e-newsletter End Polio Now to keep updated on the latest efforts in eradicating polio. This newsletter, which goes from a quarterly to a bimonthly publication in May, includes information about eradication efforts as well as inspiring stories about Rotarians from around the world who are meeting the challenge of eradicating this disease. The newsletter is available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, and Korean.

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## *Set Your Sails for* **THE 2009 GOOD SKIPPER GALA**

**Saturday, June 13, 2009**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake**  
**3000 NASA Parkway**  
**Houston, TX**

**Honoring Gloria & Robin Riley**  
**Benefiting The Children of Boys & Girls Harbor**

**The Dive for a Pearl Gourmet Dinner & Dancing**  
**Black Tie — Complimentary Valet Parking**

To reserve your tickets or table,

Please call 713.688.6262

Or email

[tchalverson@boysandgirlsharor.org](mailto:tchalverson@boysandgirlsharor.org)

<b>THIS SPACE</b>	<b>IS RESERVED</b>	<b>FOR MORE</b>	<b>SPONSORS</b>
-------------------	--------------------	-----------------	-----------------



# Got Cancer? Got Asparagus? Combine the Two for a Possible Cure.

The author's Mom had been taking the full-stalk canned style asparagus that she pureed and she took 4 tablespoons in the morning and 4 tablespoons later in the day. She did this for over a month. She is on chemo pills for Stage 3 lung cancer in the pleural area and her cancer cell count went from 386 down to 125 as of this past week. Her oncologist said she does not need to see him for 3 months.

## THE ARTICLE:

Several years ago, I had a man seeking asparagus for a friend who had cancer. He gave me a photocopy of an article, entitled, 'Asparagus for cancer' printed in Cancer News Journal, December 1979. I will share it here, just as it was shared with me: I am a biochemist, and have specialized in the relation of diet to health for over 50 years. Several years ago, I learned of the discovery of Richard R. Vensal, D.D.S. that asparagus might cure cancer. Since then, I have worked with him on his project. We have accumulated a number of favorable case histories. Here are a few examples:

**Case No. 1,** A man with an almost hopeless case of Hodgkin's disease (cancer of the lymph glands) who was completely incapacitated. Within one year of starting the asparagus therapy, his doctors were unable to detect any signs of cancer, and he was back on a schedule of strenuous exercise.

**Case No. 2,** a successful businessman 68 years old who suffered from cancer of the bladder for 16 years. After years of medical treatments, including radiation without improvement, he went on asparagus. Within 3 months, examinations revealed that his bladder tumor had disappeared and that his kidneys were normal.

**Case No. 3,** a man who had lung cancer. On March 5th 1971, he was put on the operating table where they found lung cancer so widely spread that it was inoperable. The surgeon sewed him up and declared his case hopeless. On April 5th he heard about the asparagus therapy and immediately started taking it. By August, X-ray pictures revealed that all signs of the cancer had disappeared. He is back at his regular business routine.

**Case No. 4,** a woman who was troubled for a number of years with skin cancer. She finally developed different skin cancers which were diagnosed by the acting specialist as advanced. Within three months after starting on asparagus, her skin specialist said that her skin looked fine and no more skin lesions. This woman reported that the asparagus therapy also cured her kidney disease, which started in 1949. She had over 10 operations for kidney stones, and was receiving government disability payments for an inoperable, terminal, kidney condition. She attributes the cure of this kidney trouble entirely to the asparagus. I was not surprised at this result, as *'The elements of materia medica'*, edited in 1854 by a Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, stated that asparagus was used as a popular remedy for kidney stones. He even referred to experiments, in 1739, on the power of asparagus in dissolving stones.

Note the dates! We would have other case histories but the medical establishment has interfered with our obtaining some of the records. I am therefore appealing to readers to spread this good news and help us to gather a large number of case histories that will overwhelm the medical skeptics about this unbelievably simple and natural remedy. For the treatment, asparagus should be cooked before using, and therefore canned asparagus is just as good as fresh. I have corresponded with the two leading canners of asparagus, Giant and Stokely, and I am satisfied that these brands contain no pesticides or preservatives.

Place the cooked asparagus in a blender and liquefy to make a puree, and store in the refrigerator. Give the patient 4 full tablespoons twice daily, morning and evening. Patients usually show some improvement in from 2-4 weeks. It can be diluted with water and used as a cold or hot drink. This suggested dosage is based on present experience, but certainly larger amounts can do no harm and may be needed in some cases.

As a biochemist I am convinced of the old saying that *'what cures can prevent'*. Based on this theory, my wife and I have been using asparagus puree as a beverage with our meals. We take 2 tablespoons diluted in water to suit our taste with breakfast and with dinner. I take mine hot and my wife prefers hers cold. For years we have made it a practice to have blood surveys taken as part of our regular checkups. The last blood survey, taken by a medical doctor who specializes in the nutritional approach to health, showed substantial improvements in all categories over the last one, and we can attribute these improvements to nothing but the asparagus drink...

As a biochemist, I have made an extensive study of all aspects of cancer, and all of the proposed cures. As a result, I am convinced that asparagus fits in better with the latest theories about cancer. Asparagus contains a good supply of protein called histones, which are believed to be active in controlling cell growth. For that reason, I believe asparagus can be said to contain a substance that I call cell growth normalizer. That accounts for its action on cancer and in acting as a general body tonic.

In any event, regardless of theory, asparagus used as we suggest, is a harmless substance. The FDA cannot prevent you from using it and it may do you much good. It has been reported by the US National Cancer Institute, that asparagus is the highest tested food containing glutathione, which is considered one of the body's most potent anticarcinogens and antioxidants.

Editorial Note: This is being published without an independent investigation into the claims. However, when cancer strikes, almost anything is worth trying.

**On the lighter side** — from church Signs in England... the English have always had a way with words!

- Adam blamed Eve, who then blamed the serpent, who didn't have a leg to stand on.
- There are some questions that cannot be answered by Google.
- Down in the mouth? Come in for a faith lift.
- All services are different. We leave the repeats to TV.
- As you pass this little church, be sure to plan a visit, so when at last you're carried in, God won't ask "Who is it?"
- Speak well of your enemies. After all, you made them.
- Let us help you study for your final exams.
- God is perfect. Only man makes mistakes.

---

*Ramblings of a retired mind — "I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one, so I'm wearing my garage door opener. I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think. You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway. I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans! Also, thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it. I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age and call it 'Pumping Rust.' I have gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers. I know, when people see a cat's litter box, they always say 'Oh, have a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company.' Employment application blanks always ask who is to be notified in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'A good doctor.'"*



### Bomb-laden 'Reaper' drones bound for Iraq and Afghanistan

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AP) — The airplane is the size of a jet fighter, powered by a turboprop engine, able to fly at 300 mph and reach 50,000 feet. It is outfitted with infrared, laser and radar targeting, and with a ton and a half of guided bombs and missiles. The Reaper is loaded, but there is no one on board. Its pilot, as it bombs targets in Iraq, will sit at a video console 7,000 miles away in Nevada. The arrival of these outsized U.S. “hunter-killer” drones, in aviation history’s first robot attack squadron, will be a watershed moment even in an Iraq that has seen too many innovative ways to hunt and kill. That moment, one the Air Force will likely low-key, is expected “soon,” says the regional U.S. air commander. How soon? “We’re still working that,” Lt. Gen. Gary North said in an interview. The Reaper’s first combat deployment is expected in Afghanistan, and senior Air Force officers estimate it will land in Iraq sometime between this fall and next spring. They look forward to it. “With more Reapers, I could send manned airplanes home,” North said. The Associated Press has learned that the Air Force is building a 400,000-square-foot expansion of the concrete ramp area now used for Predator drones here at Balad, the biggest U.S. air base in Iraq, 50 miles north of Baghdad. That new staging area could be turned over to Reapers. It is another sign that the Air Force is planning for an extended stay in Iraq, supporting Iraqi government forces in any continuing conflict, even if U.S. ground troops are drawn down in the coming years. The estimated two dozen or more unmanned MQ-1 Predators now doing surveillance over Iraq, as the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, have become mainstays of the U.S. war effort, offering round-the-clock airborne “eyes” watching over road convoys, tracking nighttime insurgent movements via infrared sensors, and occasionally unleashing one of their two Hellfire missiles on a target. From about 36,000 flying hours in 2005, the Predators are expected to log 66,000 hours this year over Iraq and Afghanistan. The MQ-9 Reaper, when compared with the 1995-vintage Predator, represents a major evolution of the unmanned aerial vehicle, or UAV. At five tons gross weight, the Reaper is four times heavier than the Predator. Its size — 36 feet long, with a 66-foot wingspan — is comparable to the profile of the Air Force’s workhorse A-10 attack plane. It can fly twice as fast and twice as high as the Predator. Most significantly, it carries many more weapons.

*Now, this is the way to wage war. God bless all those kids who have been raised on video games! Editor.*