



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
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Happy Mother's Day Moms!

Programs:

Today. . . . High School Aerospace Scholars

May 19. Rotary Youth Exchange
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
Installation of Officers & Directors fo 2008-2009

Say Happy Birthday to —

Laura Godwin, whom we overlooked last week.

David Coney. May 04th
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

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. 2009
- District 5890 Conference, Lake Charles. . 2009
- Texas Roadhouse Golf Tournament
. Monday, June 30 @ Bay Oaks CC
- RI Convention, Los Angeles. . . June 15-18 '08

SCRC Fellowships 6:30 p.m.

June 3. Bay Oaks Country Club Pool Party,
Bring Grandchildren

Reservations required. Email Roger Donnelly
Ridonnelly@aol.com

**The Space Center Rotary Club Endowment
Foundation Board of Trustees and Advisors will meet
Tuesday May 13th at 7:00 a.m. at Bay Oaks Country
Club. All are welcome.**

Springoree 2008 was a fantastic success! Cudos to Steve Owens and his band of assistants. Thanks to Brad Bailey for a perfect venue, great food and entertainment. The wine poured freely and the auction poured \$. This has become a "don't miss" event. I don't know who won the watch raffle. Perhaps we will have that for you next week. See special recognitions on page 4.

This watch was Jeweled, member Travis



donated by Ben Bridge Baybrook Mall through our Vermeer. Thanks Travis.



This in from Richard Meyer:

The Expedition 16 Crew Debrief will be held Wednesday, 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.



Another pic from the scrapbook of Bob Mitchell. This is the EH-7 of Squadron VP-661 stationed at NAS Norfolk and here flying off the coast of Cuba in 1951.



These are the folds that made the 2008 RNASA Dinner happen. Say thanks for a stellar event. Member of SCRC are Rodolfo Gonzalez, Chm., Geoff Atwater, Mary Alys Cherry, Murray Epstein, Bill Geissler, Dick Gregg, III, Gary Johnson, Tim Kropp, Treas., Frank Perez, Shelia Self, Bill Taylor, Vice Chm., Jean Walker, Sec., Bob Wren, Floyd Bennett, Jack Lister, and David Hamblin. Other members are Ann Charles, Marianne Dyson, Rich Jackson, Kimberly Nahas, Jayant Ramakrishnan, Duane Ross, John Wilkins, Shelley Baccus, Jennifer Mitchell, Jeffrey Carr, Marcus Havican and Steven Fredrickson.

This photo by J. Pamela Photography.



The District 5890 Conference 2008 was held at Moody Gardens in Galveston with over 500 in attendance. Among those given special recognition were **Jon McKinnie** who received the Golden Turkey for best costume, **Hilmar Zeissig** for International Service, **Alan Wylie** for Youth Exchange and **Mike Dennard** for Group Study Exchange. SCRC was awarded a Presidential Citation. Congratulations to all.

See pictures on page 4.

Hilmar R. Zeissig was born the year before World War II in Berlin, Germany and grew up in a small village at the Dutch border in Northern Germany. His father was killed as a Major of the German Infantry in the suburbs of Moscow in early 1942. After graduating from high school Hilmar served in the newly established German Army in 1958/59 and later in the reserve during his college vacations, obtaining the rank of a First Lieutenant. He studied geology, business administration and law at the Universities of Kiel, Bonn and Cologne (Germany), Lausanne (Switzerland) and Santiago (Chile) and graduated with the First Law Degree (BS equivalent) in 1965. After obligatory internships at various courts, state revenue service and several law firms, he received his Second Law Degree (MS equivalent) and a Ph.D. in International Law in 1969.

Zeissig spent the first part of his career as chief negotiator for the German national oil company DEMINEX and later as General Manager of their oil and gas exploration and production operations in Peru, drilling wells in the Amazon Jungle, and in Egypt, running two offshore rigs in the Gulf of Suez. He moved to Houston, Texas in 1978 as President and CEO of a domestic exploration company owned by the German steel concern Salzgitter. From 1981 to 1995 he ran independent oil companies which he formed with local partners and foreign investors.

In 1982 he also established the consulting firm Houston International Business Corp. as advisor to major corporations in structuring and evaluation of new business ventures as well as in the selection and acquisition of services and supplies for energy and environmental investment projects in the U.S. and abroad. Since 1986, he has been the project director or lead consultant in energy sector reform projects, particularly in the petroleum sector, in more than 30 developing countries for The World Bank, the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Development Agency (UNDP), the Inter-American Development Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), other bilateral and multinational institutions and governments in all continents.

He is a well known expert for legal, regulatory and institutional matters in connection with the privatization and reform of the petroleum sector, structuring and organization of monitoring and enforcement functions, design and implementation of safety and environmental standards, as well as petroleum supply strategy and general energy policy. Modern laws and regulations for the oil and gas sector, drafted by him, are in force and effect in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Madagascar and Uganda and in the legislative process in several other countries. He has also worked in electricity sector reform projects in Colombia and China and has played a leading role as project coordinator in two of the largest urban air quality improvement programs in the Metropolitan Areas of Mexico City and Santiago de Chile. Presently he is working on consulting projects in Afghanistan, Jordan, Yemen and Palau, Micronesia.

Hilmar is still a German citizen and a US legal resident. He is fluent in English, German and Spanish. Since he came to Texas, he has been very active in many professional associations and community service organizations, among others, as Chairman of the German-American Chamber of Commerce (1993-97), Director of the World Trade Division of the Greater Houston Partnership (1980-1996), Charter Member of the International Board of Texas A&M University since 1993 and on the Community and Economic Development Committee of the City of Friendswood. Hilmar has been a Rotarian since 1974, first in the Rotary Club of San Isidro

in Lima, Peru, then in the Rotary Clubs of Houston, Sugar Land and Space Center since 2004. Among many other activities, he served as GSE Team Leader to Mexico in 1986, District 5890 GSE Chairman 1986-1996, International Chairman 1997-2008, Tsunami Relief Chairman 2004/05, Discovery Grant Team Leader to Chile and Thailand and as consultant to RI to write the official GSE Planning Guide. He received the RI Service Above Self Award in 2006, the District Service Award 2006-2007 and obtained three Paul Harris Fellowships, including one for his youngest son who was the founding President of the Interact Club at Awty International School in Houston.

Hilmar is married to Rose, he has a daughter and three sons, and she has six daughters from previous marriages. They have 16 grand children with two more on their way, and four great grand children. After living in Sugar Land for 25 years, Hilmar moved to Friendswood in 2004. Sailing has been his life long hobby, he owned several beautiful boats and is now bareboat chartering locally and internationally, next time on May 24, 2008 in the Adriatic Sea of Croatia.

Thanks for sharing, Hilmar, and allowing us to get better acquainted. Who among you will be next?



These pictures submitted by Bob Mitchell from the SCRC meeting on May 5th — Some from District Conference and others from the Excellence in Education Awards presentations.



Those caught on camera are not being identified to save embarrassment, especially Jerry S. & Pam C.

Mike Hernandez was introduced as our President for 2008-2009, here with his beautiful wife, Teri.



Pictured with the finalists from elementary and secondary categories are Peter Wuenchel, Committee Chr., Dr. Gregg Smith, Superintendent of CCISD and President Dick Gregg, III. Each finalist received a check in the amount of \$500 and the two Teacher of the Year awardees received an additional \$500. SCRC is proud of our teachers and their dedication to Service Above Self when it concerns their students. Teaching is not a job for them, it is their life.

The following should be recognized for their generosity in giving live auction items for the Springoree: **Texas Roadhouse, Friendswood** — Rib Dinner for 30 people; **Mike & Rosie Hesse & Jennifer Keller** — an evening for 8 at Villa Juliana (This item made a fortune!); **Mike & Teri Hernandez** — 7 nights at waterfront Cozumel condominium; **Skeeter Braun of Braun's Roofing** — 4 days & 3 nights at beach house in Pirates Beach; **Randall Ashby, attorney with Waldron & Schneider, L.L.P.** — estate planning package; **Billy R. Smith, attorney** — estate planning package; **Jándo** — an evening with Jándo (They supplied the musical entertainment for the evening.); **Brad Bailey** — Wine Dinner for 10 at **Bailey's American Grille**; **Johnny White & State Farm** — a day of fishing on Galveston Bay; **Paul & Barbara Whitaker of Sage Builders** — a one week stay at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Oregon; Top Gun for a Day (don't know who donated it but our two soon-to-be top gunners are **Johnny White & Scott Rainey**, the high bidders — the *Blastoff* can't wait for pictures.); **Armando's Seabrook Restaurant** — Fajita Dinner for 40 people. Many other items were offered in the silent auction. **Special thanks should be given to Mike & Rosie Hesse for sponsoring the Connoisseurs Club & giving all who attended a commemorative wine glass.**