



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 40 * June 2, 2008

Programs:

Today. 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 —

- Chuck Jacobson. June 2nd
- David Hamblin. June 2nd
- John Lee. June 13th
- Alissa Sammons. June 16th
- Olive Murphy-Riker. June 20th
- Gene Tromblee. June 26th
- Hilmar Zeissig. June 29th



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
Ridonnely@aol.com

Editor's Note:

There will be no issues the next two weeks, as the editor will be on vacation.

Monday's program featured the International Youth Exchange and the following song was sung:

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

*Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.*

*With God as our Father,
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother,
In perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With every breath I take,
Let this be my solemn vow.*

*To take each moment and live each moment,
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
An let it begin with me.*

District Conference 2008 Pictures

Complete you album, preserve your memories or enjoy what you missed by not attending. You can order copies of over 200 photos taken during the District Conference. Janice Jones, District Conference photographer, did a wonderful job covering the event from the Luau on Thursday night to the Governor's Banquet Saturday night. Online, you can review the photos on her website, select those you want and pay with a credit card. Follow these instructions:

Go to BeJay's home page:

www.bejaysphotography.com

Click on "View On-Line Previews"

Click on "Events" Click on "Rotary District Conference"

Click on "Click Here to Continue" to view all the photos

Then follow the instructions for selection and payment.

I'll bet that Pam Culpepper has some she will share, too.

Gulf Coast Leadership Insitute

Rotary Clubs in District 5890 are invited to send one or two members to the "first class" of the Gulf Coast Leadership Institute on Saturday and Sunday, September 13-14, 2008. This is a great opportunity for future club leaders. The Institute will focus on improving the personal leadership style of those attending. The program will be highly interactive and is designed for Rotarians who wish to learn about leadership and clubs that would like to send future leaders. The registration fee will cover the cost of all materials, five meals beginning with breakfast on Saturday and an overnight stay at a motel in the greater Houston area. The cost of \$250 per participant may be paid by the club or by the individual. Overnight stay at the motel will be required because there will be activities in the evening for all.

A U. S. Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the navies of the U. S., England, Canada, Australia and France. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks when a French Admiral suddenly complained that "Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English". He the asked, "Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than =>

You Could Have Heard a Pin Drop

When in England, at a large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if the U. S. plans for Iraq were "just an example of empire building?" He answered, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of it fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.

There was a conference in a European country where a number of international engineers were taking part. During a break, one of the engineers came back into the room and said "Have you heard the latest dumb stunt the Americans have done? They have sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What do they intend to do, bomb them?" An American engineer stood up and replied quietly: "Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to on-shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day; they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day; and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in victims and injured to and from their flight deck. We have eleven such ships; how many does your country have?"

speaking French?" Without hesitating, the American replied, "Maybe it's because back in 1944 the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.



Robert J. "Bob" Wren was born in Moline, Illinois at the age of zero. Bob resides in Friendswood with his wife, Jordis, and has three sons, James, Patrick and Kiley, and three grandchildren. He is a graduate of W. B. Ray High School, Corpus Christi, Texas, the University of Texas, Austin, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and earned a Masters Degree in the same discipline from Southern Methodist University. As a structural test engineer with General Dynamics, Bob moved on to join the team at NASA JSC to manage the vibration and acoustic test facility, later being involved with various aspects of space exploration and a distinguished career with NASA ending with retirement in 2000. He then joined United Space Alliance for three years as Director of Safety and Mission Assurance, International Space Station Program. Bob has been a member of SCRC since 1976, having served at both club and district levels in many positions, including president and currently the Chair of SCRC Endowment Foundation. He was on the founding committee of RNASAF and continues as a director. For many years, Bob has served the community in various ways including as

a director of the Bay Area YMCA, Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, coaching youth sports, member of the Methodist Church and others too numerous to list. Bob is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a Rotary Foundation Major Donor and a Floyd Boze Fellow. Bob lists the following activities, avocations and hobbies: American Legion Baseball, Y basketball, water skiing, sailing, parasailing, bowling, snow skiing, canoeing, kayaking, SCUBA diving, flying light aircraft, tennis, bike riding, running, walking, jogging, physical workouts, camping, hunting, fishing, bird watching, photography, palm tree cultivation, citrus tree cultivation, high fidelity audio/video systems, computer systems, brewing history and technology (Any drinking, Bob?), reading, music, theater, professional sports, travel and eating. He is a Boy Scout and a former member of the Masonic male youth group, De Molay; charter member of the Alley Theater, member American Ski Association and Houston Underwater Club where he was a dive trip leader's assistant. Professionally, he is or has been a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Texas Society of Professional Engineers, Aconst [sic] Society of America and the Institute of Environmental Sciences.



Some great photos.

