

Editor: Billy R. Smith Photographer: Bob Mitchell

# 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 47 : Number 55 \* August 11, 2008







PRESIDENT DONG KURN LEE

Rotary District 5890 Governor 2008-2009 **Rhonda Kennedy** & husband.



Chris Schneider Alvin, Seabrook, Space Center District Assistant Governor.





A message from **Mike Hernandez** President 2008-2009

#### The District Governor's Official Visit is on August 18, 2008!

The official visit of District Governor, Rhonda Kennedy, can be an exciting time for our club; providing opportunities to learn about important issues facing Rotary and the District, and to discuss club activities and how, we as a club, can improve. The District Governor is required by Rotary International to visit each club in the district at least one time. The purpose of this personal visit is to focus attention on important Rotary issues and motivate the members of our club to support Rotary projects and to participate in service activities. The official visit is also an opportunity for our club leadership team to inform the Governor of our plans for the year and of the accomplishments we are already making. It is also an opportunity to discuss important club topics and issues that would benefit from the governor's knowledge and experience. As you know the increase in membership is one of the most important issues in Rotary and to the Governor in the District. We are implementing an outstanding plan that is already showing results. We have a great committee behind the plan but that is not enough, everyone in the club needs to be part of it, and pledge their commitment to work towards recruiting and retaining members. I know we can count on you! We are very happy that we will be able to show the Governor our results by having her induct two new members into the club and hand out blue badges to another 2 members. This will put us with an increase of 3 members! I know that everyone in the Club will make an extra effort to be present at the meeting on August the 18th, show the Governor our appreciation for her visit and make her feel at home.

Yours in Rotary, Mike Hernandez



**Rotary Past District** 

**Governors from SCRC** 

Floyd Boze 1981-1982



Billy Weseman 1993-1994



**Suzi Howe** 2006-2007

#### Service Above Self They who serve the best profit the most.

Programs —         Kippy Carraway, Chair 2008-09         Today	Say Happy Birthday to –         Delia Stephens.       August 2nd         Murray Epstein.       August 3rd         Hector A. Marin.       August 5th         Mark Humphrey.       August 13th         Jennifer Keller.       August 14th         Roger Donnelley.       August 16th         Sheila Self.       August 22nd         Steve Waldner.       August 26th         August is Membership & Extension Month	
Events Calendar         * Club Board of Directors	<ul> <li>ROTARY INFORMATION</li> <li>When recognizing &amp; greeting visiting Rotarians from other clubs, we do not applaud, we say "Hi (Rotarian's first name)" in a loud voice to make them feel welcome.</li> <li>When recognizing &amp; greeting guests of Rotarians, we applaud to make them feel welcome.</li> <li>Are you familiar with the "Rule of 85"? Under RI attendance rules, a member who has a combined total of 85 years (age + years in Rotary) or more may, by written notice to the Club Secretary, elect to be excused from attendance at meetings, if approved by the board of directors. This, of course, will terminate the counting &amp; recognition of years of perfect attendance. The purpose is to make it possible for more senior &amp; possibly retired members to miss meetings without jeopardizing the members continued membership in good standing. This excused absence is not automatic &amp; must be requested.</li> </ul>	

Officers 2008-2009	Committees & Chairs	
President.Mike HernandezPresident Elect/V.P.Gary JohnsonSecretary.Jon McKinnieTreasurer.Marilyn MusialSargent at Arms.John WilsonImmediate Past President.Dick Gregg, III	Programs.Kippy CarawayDirectory & Website.Jon McKinnieClub History.Jerrold DeWeaseConstitution & Bylaws.Billy SmithMemorial.Laura HaleFellowship.Roger DonnellyBlastoff Editor.Billy Smith	Sponsors.Scott RainerInteract.David ConeyRotaract.Ted CummingsYouth Activities.Marc SchneiderSenior Citizens.Steve WaldnerHealth & Safety.Jennifer KellerScholarships.Belinda Skloss
-	Photographer.Bolk StatePhotographer.Bob MitchellPublic Information.Scott RaineyGolf.Dick KidderAttendance.???Classifications.Scott RaineyMbr Recruitment/Retention.Jon McKinnieGrants.Stan GlanskiShrimporee.Gary JohnsonSpringoree.Steve Owens	Rotary Foundation.David ConeySCRC Endowment Foundation.Bob WrenAmbassadorial Scholars.???GSE Activities.Bill GeisslerInternational Youth Exchange.Dick MeyerWorld Health Foundation.J B FoxExcellence in Education.David ConeySafety/Law Enforcement.Phill Sandlin

Important & Informative Websit         Rotary International         www.Rl.org         Rotary District 5890         www.RotaryDistrict 5890.org         Space Center Rotary Club         www.SpaceCenterRotary.org	<ul> <li>Sunshine — I am returning these columns in hopes that members will share their good news and not so good news. If you have an anniversary, new birth, achievement, child or grandchild graduating, etc., let us know.</li> <li><u>If you desire to submit an item</u></li> <li>Billy &amp; Jayme Smith recently traveled to North Carolina to witness and celebrate with family the graduation of granddaughter, Emily, from Greensboro High School (a top 100 high school in the U. S.). In the Fall, Emily will be enrolled at UNC where she plans to study marketing and merchandising.</li> </ul>	Showers — If you or a family member experience disappointment, a death in the family or of a friend, unfortunate medical diagnosis and want prayer support, let us know so that we can offer our support. anonymously, please so state. *
The Rotary Foundation IOO PERCENT PAUL HARRIS FELLOW CLUB         Observed         Observed <tr< th=""><th colspan="2"><ul> <li>Meeting Notes — August 4<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Speaker: ADG, Chris Schneider</li> <li>Topic: Rotary Theme 2008-2009 — Make Dreams Real</li> <li>Worldwide 33,000 children die each day</li> <li>The Theme promotes Rotary projects to —     * bring hope to children &amp; parents     * furnish clean water (not just for drinking, but also for hygeine)     * improve sanitation     * provide access to health care     * provide a chance for school education     * provide a chance for school education     * promote usage &amp; provide children's car seats     * promote usage &amp; provide bicycle helmets</li> <li>The primary purpose of the Rotary District is to serve Rotary Clubs within the district</li> <li>In District 5890, there are 60 Rotary Clubs &amp; 3,100 Rotarians</li> <li>District Goals for 2008-2009:     * Give \$450,000 RF as matching funds to the Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation     \$100 million challenge pledge for polio eradication     * Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) program which urges every Rotarian to give at least \$100 every year to Rotary Foundation and be <i>sustaining member</i>     * Promote the City of Houston as the site of the Rotary International Convention in 2015</li> </ul></th></tr<>	<ul> <li>Meeting Notes — August 4<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Speaker: ADG, Chris Schneider</li> <li>Topic: Rotary Theme 2008-2009 — Make Dreams Real</li> <li>Worldwide 33,000 children die each day</li> <li>The Theme promotes Rotary projects to —     * bring hope to children &amp; parents     * furnish clean water (not just for drinking, but also for hygeine)     * improve sanitation     * provide access to health care     * provide a chance for school education     * provide a chance for school education     * promote usage &amp; provide children's car seats     * promote usage &amp; provide bicycle helmets</li> <li>The primary purpose of the Rotary District is to serve Rotary Clubs within the district</li> <li>In District 5890, there are 60 Rotary Clubs &amp; 3,100 Rotarians</li> <li>District Goals for 2008-2009:     * Give \$450,000 RF as matching funds to the Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation     \$100 million challenge pledge for polio eradication     * Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) program which urges every Rotarian to give at least \$100 every year to Rotary Foundation and be <i>sustaining member</i>     * Promote the City of Houston as the site of the Rotary International Convention in 2015</li> </ul>	

SPONSORS OF SHRIMPOREE 2008 [\$1,000 unless otherwise noted]				
<ul> <li>★ Amoco Federal Credit Union</li> <li>★ Art Oswald — AOVCO</li> <li>★ Bastion Technologies (Mike Hernandez</li> <li>★ Belinda K. Skloss, LLC</li> <li>★ Ben Bridge Jewelers (Travis Vermeer)</li> <li>★ Billy R. Smith, Attorney at Law</li> <li>★ Gay &amp; Reitz, Attorneys at Law (Becky Reitz)</li> <li>★ Gregg &amp; Gregg, P. C., Attorneys at Law</li> <li>★ Gurry Mechanical, LP (Ken Gurry)</li> <li>★ Hopping Eye Associates (Vissett Sun)</li> <li>★ Hydrocarbon Resource Recovery (Scott Rainey)</li> <li>★ JSC Federal Credit Union (Mike Brown)</li> <li>★ J. Pamela Photography (Pam Culpepper)</li> <li>★ Kirchoff Peterson Co. (Don Kirchoff)</li> <li>★ L. D. Bowles Associates (Lamar Bowles)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Las Colinas Custom Interiors (Rae De Castro)</li> <li>Lexus of Clear Lake</li> <li>Maudlin Products — Earl &amp; Terrilee Maudlin (\$10,000)</li> <li>MRI Technologies (Tim Kropp)</li> <li>Prosperity Bank (Mark Humphrey)</li> <li>Space Center Automotive (Jerrold Dewease)</li> <li>State Farm Insurance— Johnny R. White, Agent</li> <li>Texas Citizens Bank (Mike Cornett)</li> <li>Texas Wealth Management (Mike Hesse)</li> <li>Gene &amp; Donna Tromblee (\$2,500)</li> <li>University of Houston — Clear Lake Campus</li> <li>Waldron &amp; Schneider, Attorneys (Marc Schneider)</li> </ul>			
<u>A Blast from the Past — events in the History of S</u> Watch for this feature begining in the next issue.	SCRC       Pictures from the August 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting —         PDG, Suzi, installed Directors who missed         the installation meeting & pinned Mike         Cornett, Dick Kidder & Bill Geissler.         Image: Stress of the installation meeting is prevented by pre			
SCRC Fellowships 6:30 p.m. August 19 <sup>th</sup> Pool Party @ Bay Oaks Co <u>Ridonnelly@aol.com</u>	ountry Club SCRC Endowment Foundation Pancake Breakfast Saturday August 16 <sup>th</sup> Tickets \$7.00 each or 5 for \$30.00 See Jack Lister & team			

## Making up in <u>not</u> hard to do —

If you miss a regular meeting, you may make up that miss in the following ways: If, within 14 days before or after the regular time for that meeting, you

- attend at least 60 percent of the regular meeting of another club or of a provisional club;
- attend a regular meeting of a Rotaract or Interact club, Rotary Community Corps, or Rotary Fellowship or of a provisional Rotaract or Interact club, Rotary Community Corps, or Rotary Fellowship;
- attend a convention of RI, a council on legislation, an international assembly, a Rotary institute for past and present officers of RI, a Rotary institute for past, present, and incoming officers of RI,
- attend any other meeting convened with the approval of the board of directors of RI or the president of RI acting on behalf of the board of directors of RI, a Rotary multizone conference, a meeting of a committee of RI, a Rotary district conference, a Rotary district assembly, any district meeting held by direction of the board of directors of RI, any district committee meeting held by direction of the district governor,
- attend a regularly announced intercity meeting of Rotary clubs;
- are present at the usual time and place of a regular meeting of another club for the purpose of attending such meeting, but that club is not meeting at that time or place;
- attend and participate in a club service project or a club-sponsored community event or meeting authorized by the board;
- attend a board meeting or, if authorized by the board, a meeting of a service committee to which the member is assigned;
- participate through a club web site in an interactive activity requiring an average of 30 minutes of participation.

When a member is outside the member's country of residence for more than 14 days, the time restriction shall not be imposed so that the member may attend meetings in another country at any time during the travel period, and each such attendance shall count as a valid make-up for any regular meeting missed during the member's time abroad.

### MAKEUP OPPORTUNITIES:

Pearland Tuesday @ noon Golfcrest Country Club 2501 Country Club Drive

LaPorte Tuesday @ 12:10 p.m. St John Episcopal Church Broadway @ Ave. G

Pasadena South Wednesday @ noon Baywood Country Club 5500 Genoa Red Bluff

**Friendswood** Wednesday @ noon Village on the Park Retirment Center 400 E. Parkwood

> Seabrook Thursday @ &:7:00 a.m. Lakewood Yacht Club 2425 NASA Parkway

> League City Thursday @ noon Estaban's Fiesta Shack 131 League Street

Pasadena Friday @ noon First United Methodist Church 1062 Fairmont Pkwy

Make up @ an E-club http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdf s/eclub\_list.pdf

Sponsors: If a member whom you sponsored misses a meeting, take them to a make up club and show them how easy it is. You will meet some nice people. Remember — perfect attendance begins with just one meeting and ends with just one missed meeting.

These members have perfect attendance through 2007:
Bill Taylor 1 year
Mary Alys Cherry 2 years
Art Oswald 2 years
Scott Rainey 3 years
Jerrold DeWease
L. Jean Walker 4 years
Roger Donnelly 5 years
Debby McBride 5 years
Belinda Skloss 10 years
Suzi Howe 15 years
David Taylor 17 years
Billy Smith
Bob Wren 27 years

#### THE SPACE CENTER ROTARY CLUB ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

**<u>History</u>**: When Billy Weseman was president (1988-1989), Floyd Boze and Bob Wren urged the establishment of an endowment foundation by our club. Although this was a new concept for us, many clubs had already established such foundations with which both Floyd and Bob were familiar. Since Billy was a strong supporter of the Rotary International Foundation and believed that a local foundation would compete for funds, he did not support the idea and nothing came of it. The next year (1989-1990) John Watson was president and the idea of a foundation was again discussed by the Board. This time the Board unanimously supported the idea and resolved to establish the Space Center Rotary Club Endowment Foundation. John asked Billy Smith to obtain a charter from the Texas Secretary of State for a non-profit corporation and David Hamblin was asked to obtain approval from the Internal Revenue Service so that the Foundation was classified as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. After considerable research and discussions with members of other Rotary clubs who had long-established foundations, both were accomplished. The corporate charter was issued on February 15, 1991 and 501(c)(3) status was granted on April 9, 1993. The purposes for which the Foundation is organized are stated in Article I of its bylaws.

**Intent of Founders:** Not desiring to diminish the importance of or to detract from the work of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International or to interfere with or compete for support, through its members, of Space Center Rotary Club, and, while acknowledging the worthiness of the Club's attaining the highest possible level of member participation in financially supporting The Rotary Foundation through Paul Harris Fellowships, Paul Harris Sustaining Members, and Benefactors, the founders of The Space Center Rotary Club Endowment Foundation believe that there will be those among its members, both present and future, as well as relatives and friends of members, who, desiring to foster and promote the ideals of Rotary, wish to do so within the local community and through the control, management, and administration of members of Space Center Rotary Club. Therefore, this Foundation has come into existence and shall strive to nurture, encourage, and advance the development of effective programs, activities, undertakings, and projects of a philanthropic, charitable, educational, humanitarian, and eleemosynary nature. To achieve this intent, the founders believe that it will be important and desirable for the Trustees of the Foundation to resist the temptations to distribute all available funds, but, at least in the early years, to concentrate on the building of a sizable trust corpus, accumulating as much of the income as possible and adding it to the principal until the Foundation has the means and resources to offer financial assistance to worthy projects of a far greater dimension than it would otherwise be able to consider.

**Mission:** The mission of the Space Center Rotary Club Endowment Foundation is to build a *foundation* upon and with which the Rotary Club of Space Center, Houston, Texas will be financially enabled to meet and satisfy many of the needs of the Clear Lake Community.

**Vision:** The vision is to create and grow an essentially untouchable fund which will earn and produce funds for the "bricks and mortar" of places, organizations, and community groups which will identify and satisfy some of the needs of our community. Needs may range from those of the underprivileged to those of the whole community relating to the arts, science and education.

From:	THOMAS, EVAN A. (JSC-EC3)
Sent:	Friday, August 01, 2008 9:52 AM
Subject:	Engineers Without Borders-JSC on CNN!
	EWB-JSC Members, WB-JSC will be featured on CNN in the next few weeks. They sent us a sneak preview of the
	piece, click the link below to download the video: <u>EWB-JSC CNN Video</u>
	- Evan

Four score and ..... no that is a different story and this one is a paraphrase of a fourteen page remembrance of Bob Wren. This one is about the birth of one of the greatest achievements of Space Center Rotary Club (the "can do" club). It all began in 1985 with an idea of Club member, Owen Morris. Owen took that idea to Charles "Charlie" Hartman (now deceased) and The Rotary National Award For Space Achievement Foundation (RNASA) was born. This story is being presented for those of you who have forgotten or never knew how RNASA came to be and for those of you who have become members of this club since that time and are not familiar with RNASA and what a fantastic accomplishment it has been, born in the imagination of Owen and given birth by Charlie and team. Owen told Charlie that there was a need for a National Space Trophy to honor United States achievements in space exploration. "There is a need to recognize individuals and groups who have led us into the Space Age," said Owen. "And who better to do this than the Space Center Rotary Club?" Charlie, at the time was president of SCRC and a zealous Rotarian with many ideas of his own for service to others. Although not a member of the aerospace community (Charlie, a former employee of J. C. Penny Company, was then the owner of a men's wear business located on NASA Road One.) Charlie, affectionally called "Propeller Man" because he piloted B-24 bombers in missions over Europe in World War II and argued that the only real airplanes had propellers, appreciated what Owen was suggesting and was onboard with the idea. Charlie was certainly the right person for Owen to entrust his idea. As a hard-headed German, Charlie was tenacious when he had or bought into an idea or project and always dreamed bigger than anyone could imagine. I remember that in an early meeting of the steering and planning committee, Charlie suggested that the price of admission to what would become known as the Rotary Space Award Dinner, an annual event, would be \$150 per person, most, if not all in attendance gasped. Remember, this was 24 years ago and \$150 was a lot of money. Charlie, when he locked on, could not be dissuaded from pursuant the best that could be dreamed — no timidity allowed here. This was similar to the approach of NASA to President Kennedy's mandate to put a man on the moon in 10 years.

Charlie asked me what I thought of Owen's idea and I agreed that it was exactly the right thing to do. Although it would be a monumental task, I had no doubt that SCRC could pull it off. To begin, we had to clearly define the project, scope it, size it and time it. A founding project committee was formed and the brain storming began. We knew it would take some time to properly plan the first event (in fact, it took two years). Although, some name will unfortunately omitted because of fading memory, these are the original planner that I can recall, some deceased now and some others no longer members of SCRC. They are Owen Morris, Charlie Hartman, Bob Wren, Billy Smith, Chuck Jacobson, Hal Neely Bob Mitchell, John Watson, Jack Lister, David Hamblin, Ron Blilie, Floyd Boze, Vic Maria, Mike Dennard, John Francis, Clay Fulcher, Tim Kropp, Eddie Harris, Don Kirk, et al.

At the time, the premier space recognition event was the Goddard Dinner, held annually in Huntsville, Alabama. We knew their event was good, but we were determined ours would be much better. After a few events, the dream came true and the Rotary Space Award Dinner far surpassed any other similar event; in fact, there is no other similar event now. Charlie insisted, and all agreed, this had to be the best; a black tie, first class, no hold barred event that only SCRC could invent.

The downtown Houston Rotary Club was famous for its Lombardi Dinner which chooses the college football lineman of the year, so we began to look at that event for guidance. Members of that club were very gracious and open to guiding us with their experience. They too thought this was the right thing to do and there certainly was no sense of competition.

Billy Smith was designated legal counsel and asked to form the Foundation. Using the Houston Rotary Club experience as a guide, this the organization was soon chartered by the Texas Secretary of State as a not for profit corporation. David Hamblin volunteered his time and expertise to seek and obtain 501(c)(3) charity status. Later, this status was abandoned due to problems some aerospace companies had with budgeting funds to participate in the event.

To be continued in the next issue . . .

## **Children of the Dump Project**

GOVERNOR RHONDA KENNEDY REQUESTS HELP TO THE "CHILDREN OF THE DUMP" IN NICARAGUA Space Center Rotary Club has been asked to conduct a Clothing Drive to collect used or new clothing that then will be sent to Nicaragua to be sold in the resale shop at the Trade School. The money of the sales will be used to provide education and food for the schools, the trade school and the school for the blind children WE ASK ALL OF OUR MEMBERS TO COLLECT AND BRING FOR THE NEXT 3 CLUB MEETINGS (August 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>) CLOTHING SUITABLE FOR WARM CLIMATE THAT CAN BE PACKED IN BOXES AND SHIPPED TO NICARAGUA

The boxes will be taken to the collecting place in Humble TX on Saturday August 30th

Do you think your load is too heavy? Enjoy life as it comes. Serve others. Be happy.





### UPDATE ON THE WATER PROJECT IN CARBONERA, MEXICO

It is hoped that the project can be finished on the next trip this month. The water purification plant will then be started.

**Location of Project:** Carbonera, MX, approximately 90 miles south of Brownsville, TX on the Gulf Coast. The closet "large" city is San Fernando.

Local Demographics: This is primarily a fishing village with no real employment opportunities.

**The Project:** Water is now piped in by the government, but it is brackish and not suitable for human consumption or cooking. Although it can be used for bathing, it is not pleasant. The project will both furnish good water and create a vocational training opportunity. Builder's Without Borders of Texas (BWOBT) has built a dormitory and base in the village and has been involved with several community improvement projects including construction of a high school which provides an education for young girls beyond primary level. Before the school was built, girls could not attend secondary school and were mostly a burden on the village,

only being considered useful to bear children. BWOBT also established a sewing center to provide a means for the village women to create merchandise such as blankets and purses to be sold in the U.S. The proceeds are used to buy more supplies and to create a profit center. For this project, a water well will be drilled and the water treated with reverse osmosis to make it sanitary and potable. A bottled water bottling business will be established to supply the village with local bottled water established. A complete pilot system has been established in the dormitory and even Gringos can safely drink the water produced. Land has been purchased, the well has been drilled and the building is under construction. A Rotary Interact Club has been established at the high school. Pearland Interact Club is working with the local children. The Carbonera Interact Club will operate the business with oversight by a charitable entity created by BWOBT and a manager. The children in Carbonera will be responsible for the operation of the business so that they will acquire the necessary skills. It is hoped that this project will provide a means for them to do more than fish. Profits from the business will be used to fund college scholarships for the high school graduates. It is anticipated that not only the water problem will be solved, but the children will have greater opportunities for a better life. Phase One of the project has been completed and fully funded. Phase Two, which will be installation of the water plant, and funding is still needed. Participants from SCRC include Scott Rainey, and Don Kirchoff. Other Rotary Clubs involved include FM 288, West University and League City.

#### First United Methodist Church, Pearland Texas Carbonera Mexico

A team from First United Methodist Church, Pearland, went to Carbonera the week of June 22-28, 2008. The block walls were raised for the water purification building and the exterior of an addition to the Methodist church was painted to protect it from the weather. It was hot, and the team worked very hard! Wednesday night was movie & popcorn night. The Bee Movie in Spanish was a big hit with the kids, and so was the popcorn! Thursday, we had the honor of attending the second annual C.O.B.A.T. high school graduation. On Friday afternoon, the team took a break and went to the beach and then to San Fernando to visit the square and have dinner at a local restaurant, and then headed home Saturday morning. It was a great trip!





**Cindya Paolo Gonzalez Muniz** — Cindya was born on August 26, 1990. She graduated from C.O.B.A.T. on June 26, 2008. Cyndia would like to attend U.A.T in Ciudad de Victoria and become a teacher. Cindya's father is Jose Gonzalez Ortiz. She has one older sister. If you would like to help Cindya with the cost of her education, checks can be made payable to B.W.B.T. and mailed to:

Builders Without Borders of Texas, Inc. P.O. Box 202 Friendswood, TX 77549 Questions? Call 832-274-3893. For more information about B.W.B.T., go to www.builderswithoutbordersoftexas.org.