



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 56 * August 18, 2008



Editor: Billy R. Smith
Photographer: Bob Mitchell

Rotary International President 2008-2009



PRESIDENT DONG KURN LEE

Rotary District 5890
Governor 2008-2009
Rhonda Kennedy



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



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

Hi, Fellow Rotarians

Just a reminder that Monday is the official visit of District Governor, Rhonda Kennedy to our Club. Please make an extra effort to attend the meeting and please be there on time. We start the business part of the meeting at 12 noon. Meal is being served starting at 11:30.

Also remember that we will still be collecting clothing to send to Nicaragua for the next two meetings. So please check the closet and also ask friends and neighbors. Bring clothing proper for warm climate on Monday.

See you on Monday

Mike Hernandez

[Note: This is not Mike's weekly message, but the one he sent could not be opened. It will be included next week.]

Rotary Past District Governors from SCRC



Floyd Boze
1981-1982

*Picture
not
available*

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..... DG, Rhonda Kennedy — Official Visit
- Aug 25..... Bob Mitchell, Pres of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
- Sep 1..... Labor Day — **No Meeting**
- Sep 8..... Dr. Bob Stein, Professor at Rice University re: the political climate in Houston & in Texas
- Sep 15..... Pete Olson, candidate for Representative of U. S. Congress, District 22
- Sep 22..... Ed Emmett, Harriss County Judge
- Sep 29..... Nick Lampson, U. S. Congressman District 22
- Oct 6..... TBD
- Oct 13..... Columbus Day — No Meeting**

Bring a guest.

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 Donnelly..... August 16th
- Sheila Self..... August 22nd
- Jon McKinnie..... August 25th
- Steve Waldner..... August 26th

August is Membership & Extension Month

Events Calendar

- * **Club Board of Directors.** 3rd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- * **Endowment Foundation Board.** 2nd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- * **Rotary Foundation Comm.** last Wed @ 7 a.m.
- * **Membership Comm** 2nd Mon @ 1:15 p.m.
- * **Shrimporee Comm.**..... August 18 @ 5:30 p.m.
- * **Shrimporee** October 25, 2008
- * **Springoree** Spring 2009
- * **District 5890 Conference, Lake Charles.**
..... Apr 30-May 2, 2009
- * **100th RI Convention, Birmingham, England**
..... June 21-24, 2009

National Immunization Tour to India Opportunity

An unexpected vacancy for one female has occurred in the National Immunization Tour to India. The tour will depart on October 15 and arrive back in Houston on October 25. The cost of the tour will be approximately \$2,700, which includes air transportation, a 10 day land tour including a visit to the Taj Mahal and miscellaneous expenses. This cost may vary a little, based on the availability of an air ticket at the group rate. You do not have to be a Rotarian to take this tour. Interested parties may get additional information by contacting tour leader:

PDG Jon Eiche
832-595-1398
713-702-2292 (Cell)
eichej1@comcast.net

Officers 2008-2009

President..... Mike Hernandez
President Elect/V.P..... Gary Johnson
Secretary..... Jon McKinnie
Treasurer..... Marilyn Musial
Sargent at Arms..... John Wilson
Immediate Past President... Dick Gregg, III

Directors:

Club Administration..... Mark Humphrey
Public Relations..... John Nugent
Membership..... Bill Geissler
Fundraising..... David Coney
Community Service A..... Belinda Skloss
Community Service B..... Dick Hergert
International Service A..... Mike Cornett
International Service B..... Dick Kidder
Vocational Service..... Rae DeCastro

Committees & Chairs

Programs..... Kippy Caraway
Directory & Website..... Jon McKinnie
Club History..... Jerrold DeWease
Constitution & Bylaws..... Billy Smith
Memorial..... Laura Hale
Fellowship..... Roger Donnelly
Blastoff Editor..... Billy Smith
Photographer..... Bob Mitchell
Public Information..... Mary Alys Cherry
Golf..... Dick Kidder
Attendance..... Bill Geissler
Classifications..... Scott Rainey
Mbr Recruitment/Retention.. Jon McKinnie
Grants..... Stan Glanski
Shrimporee..... Gary Johnson
Springoree..... Steve Owens

Sponsors..... Scott Rainey
Interact..... David Coney
Rotaract..... Ted Cummings
Youth Activities..... Marc Schneider
Senior Citizens..... Steve Waldner
Health & Safety..... Jennifer Keller
Scholarships..... Belinda Skloss
Rotary Foundation..... David Coney
SCRC Endowment Foundation.. Bob Wren
Ambassadorial Scholars..... ???
GSE Activities..... Bill Geissler
International Youth Exchange.. Dick Meyer
World Health Foundation..... Dick Kidder
Excellence in Education..... David Coney
Safety/Law Enforcement..... Phil Sandlin

Important & Informative Websites

Rotary International

www.RI.org

Rotary District 5890

www.RotaryDistrict5890.org

Space Center Rotary Club

www.SpaceCenterRotary.org

Sunshine —



★ To see the current status of the Polio Plus program, go to this link:
<http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/Polio/Pages/ridefault.aspx>
★

Showers —



★ **No showers this time.**



Make it true again for 2008-2009

There will be a Shrimporee Committee Operational Meeting Monday, Aug 18, 5:30 pm at JSC Credit Union board room. The entrance is back door facing “drive thru” banking lanes. Address is 1330 Gemini St, Houston, TX 77058, (281) 488-7070.

Meeting Notes — August 11th

- ◆ The meeting was devoted to Shrimporee 2008 plans and development. You had to be there to see the PowerPoint presentation with Vice Chr., Jon McKinnie, filling in for traveling Chr., Gary Johnson.
- ◆ Volunteers responded for missing key personnel positions. Thanks for stepping up.
- ◆ The ticket teams have been formed and tickets were given to team members who were present.
- ◆ PDG, Suzi Howe, is Polio Plus Zone Challenge Coordinator for Zone 26 to raise \$100 million over three years.
- ◆ Our newest member is Dennis Paul, sponsored by Art Oswald (picture & bio to come).
- ◆ *Pictures from the meeting* — 1 to r: Pres. Mike & Deputy Head Shrimp; Lisa Hamilton, a proposed new member who hasn't been inducted, but nevertheless has volunteered for a very important leadership position for Shrimporee 2008; Sheryl Berg received her regular badge; and Shelley Smith receive her regular badge, both having completed all the assigned Red Badge tasks (See the brief bio of Shelley that follows).



I can't explain it. The picture of Lisa Hamilton disappeared.



Aloha,
As one of seven children, I was born in New Orleans , La in 1955. Since 1970 until 1989, I was raised in St. Charles Parish, La. After graduating from Hahnville High School , I went to Spencer Business College where I received my Executive Secretarial Degree. In 1989, Mike and I moved from Louisiana to Deer Park , TX . In 2004, we decided to make League City our home. We have three sons, 36, 33, and 16 years old. We have two beautiful daughters-in-law and 5 grandchildren. As a

parent, I was very active in the schools. I served as a local PTA President. Later I served as District PTA President for St. Charles, St. John, and St. James Parishes in Louisiana . After moving to Texas , I served on a local board, chairing Membership and Fund Raising. My last fund raiser put a new computer lab in Carpenter Elementary in Deer Park . I also taught Little Learners In Sunday School at Central Baptist Church in Deer Park. Since our move to League City, my community service slowed down until I resigned from the Department of Homeland Security at William P. Hobby Airport. I started by joining the League City Chamber of Commerce. Then I felt the need to branch out. My dear friend, Laura Godwin told me about the great things being done at Space Center Rotary Club. The idea of not only helping those in my community but making a difference in the world appealed to me highly. To stop life threatening diseases and help people have fresh water are only a few services, that are so important. But the idea of spreading this good news, so others could join in the effort was another area I wanted to contribute to. I put my application in, was accepted and speedily started my Red Badge Duties. Thank You graciously for the leave of absence to open my new business, Maui Wowi. Now that my Red Badge duties are over, I am ready to continue serving with my Permanent Badge. And I'm starting in an excellent place. The Membership committee is a place where I have experience. So, I am happy to be serving. After working with some of our excellent leaders, one day I will be able to chair a committee myself. So I say to each of you, whether you are active now or have been in the past, go out and make a difference in the world no matter how big or small.

Mahalo,
 Shelley C. Smith
 Trade Winds Pleasures, Inc. dba Maui Wowi
 2104 Goldfinch Lane
 League City , TX 77573
 scsmithbud@verizon.net
 281-910-9875

SPONSORS OF SHRIMPOREE 2008 [\$1,000 unless otherwise noted]

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Amoco Federal Credit Union ★ Art Oswald — AOVCO ★ Bastion Technologies (Mike Hernandez) (\$2,500) ★ Belinda K. Skloss, LLC ★ Ben Bridge Jewelers (Travis Vermeer) ★ Billy R. Smith, Attorney at Law ★ Gay & Reitz, Attorneys at Law (Becky Reitz) ★ Gregg & Gregg, P. C., Attorneys at Law (\$2,500) ★ Gurry Mechanical, LP (Ken Gurry) ★ Hopping Eye Associates (Vissett Sun) ★ Hydrocarbon Resource Recovery (Scott Rainey) (\$2,500) ★ JSC Federal Credit Union (Mike Brown) (\$2,500) ★ J. Pamela Photography (Pam Culpepper) ★ Kirchoff Peterson Co. (Don Kirchoff) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ L. D. Bowles Associates (Lamar Bowles) (\$2,500) ★ Las Colinas Custom Interiors (Rae De Castro) ★ Lexus of Clear Lake — Joey Dupuis (\$2,500) ★ Maudlin Products — Earl & Terrilee Maudlin (\$10,000) ★ 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) ★ Gene & Donna Tromblee (\$2,500) ★ University of Houston — Clear Lake Campus ★ Waldron & Schneider, Attorneys (Marc Schneider) ★ |
|---|--|

SCRC Fellowships 6:30 p.m.

Aug 19th **Bay Oaks Country Club** – Pool Party
Swimming not required. Bring children & grandchildren.
Sep 16th **Boondoggles**, 4106 NASA Pkwy, El Lago
Sep 30th **Dos Mas**, 103 W. Bay Area Blvd., Webster
Oct 7th **Topwater Grill**, 815 Ave. O, San Leon
Oct 21st **Zio's**, 820 W. Bay Area Blvd., Webster
Nov 4th **Tommy's Seafood**, 2555 Bay Area Blvd., Houston
Nov 18th **Tony's Barbeque**, 17052 Saturn Ln., Houston
Dec 2nd .. **Abe's Cajun Market**, 1080 Clear Lake City Blvd, Houston
Dec 16th **Bailey's**, 2320 NASA Pkwy, Seabrook

Ridonnely@aol.com

Borrowed from Reader's Digest

Bob decided to launder some shirts. Shortly after entering the laundry room, he yelled to Jordie, "Honey, what setting do I use on the washing machine?" "It depends," Jordie yelled back. "What does it say on your shirt?" "Hook em Horns" Bob replied. (names changed to protect the Aggies.)

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 11th, 18th and 25th) 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.

The story of the creation and development of The Rotary National Award For Space Achievement Foundation ("RNASA") & The Rotary Space Award Dinner continued — *From the start, the founders intended that all space endeavors be included in the recognitions, not just those of NASA. This was evidenced in the selection of the first Board of Advisors who selected the initial recipient of the Rotary Space Award. This Board was carefully chosen to include all branches of the Department of Defense and other non-NASA space participants.*

The founders were a group of avid supporters of this project. All club members that wanted to participate were invited to do so. Except for Charlie Hartman at the helm, other positions of officers, directors and committee chairs rotated and through the early years, the whole was always larger than the sum of the parts. In addition to the development of the plan and other important matters including working out the details of the nomination and selection process, designing the trophy with the help of Steuben Glass of New York, production of the permanent trophy and smaller versions to give to each recipient, selection of the venue for the dinner, creation of a suitable souvenir program and choosing an artist to create a permanent piece of art depicting the recipient, arranging for video and still photography of the event and not the least, assigning seating at the tables. All of these were new challenges, but the group rose above the level of expectations.

Because this was to be a "national" event and not just Johnson Space Center or local NASA, the Houston Hyatt Hotel in downtown Houston was chosen as the venue for the first and many subsequent dinners. They could accommodate as many as 1200 attendees which provided room for growth. The Hyatt is a first class facility and in keeping with the goals of the founders.

Jack Lister's experiences as Director of Human Resources at NASA JSC and involvement with similar events contributed greatly to the basic structure of the event. Billy Smith took care of legal matters and David Hambin kept us square with the IRS. John Francis owned a public relations and advertising business and headed up several tasks, including design and production of the souvenir program, selection of the artist and development of the trophy design. John also proposed and developed the selection of other awardees for their "out of the spotlight" contributions which came to be known as the "Stellar Awards". As time and dinners went forward there were occasions for other special recognitions which were called "Corona Awards". The first Corona Award recipient was Dr. Gilruth and another was Walter Cronkite.

Ron Blilie created a project time line to keep all parts progressing in harmony and on schedule. Owen Morris (the originator of the

idea), with many years in NASA management and later head of Eagle Engineering, contributed his guidance, experience and the great value of many contacts in NASA, DOD and the aerospace industry. Without these very important contributions, the project could not have succeeded.

From the beginning, Charlie insisted, and all agreed, this would be a formal, black-tie event. Bob Wren became the coordinator for tuxedo rentals, obtaining a group discount, and arranging for a picture of the officers, directors and other participants in the process. Great fun was had by all as Pam Culpepper organized the group for an annual picture to appear in the program. Pam also was the official still shot photographer at each event. When the seriousness was over, the group posed for a "private" shot. You see, the formal picture never revealed below the waist and the participants were not wearing tuxedo pants or shoes. Some were in shorts, some in jeans and most were wearing athletic type shoes. One year, Mike Dennard brought enough hats for everyone to wear for this private shot. There were all kinds and each different. Great fun was had by all and there was some release of the pressures of creating the best such award dinner anywhere — one worthy of the name "Rotary".

Gen. Hal Neely (Many names mentioned in this article will not mean anything to some of you, especially newer members, but they were great Rotarians with vast and worldly experiences, without which this program could not have been possible. Hal, for instance held a time and speed record for flight from coast to coast in the U. S. For men like Hal, nothing was considered impossible.) Having considerable experience in government and political protocol, Hal was in charge of that very important area. Missteps and insults must be avoided in transportation, housing and seating arrangements. Seats and the proximity of one guest of honor to another had to be perfect. Selection of the Honor Guard, flight arrangements for dignitaries, the award recipient, etc. were of greatest importance.

Initial funding for the first event came in the form of a loan from the club — the permanent trophy alone, produced out of leaded crystal by Steuben Glass, cost \$35,000. That loan was promptly paid from receipts from the event.

The success was greater than imagined. Members of NASA, DOD, the aerospace industry and all connected with space exploration received their invitations with great expectation and attended. A spectacular multi-media presentation was prepared and shown at several Rotary functions including the District Conference. Truly, SCRC had once more proven it is the "can do" club. The place where big dreams become big events.

Thus far the recipients of the Rotary National Space Award are:

Dr. Maxime Faget — 1987 Hon Don Fuqua — 1988 V. Adm, Richard Truly — 1989 Dr. Lew Allen — 1990
Dr. Aaron Cohen — 1991 Dr. Norman R. Augustine — 1992 Lt. Gen. Thomas Stafford — 1993
Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge, Jr. — 1994 Daniel Goldin — 1995 Capt Robert L. Crippen — 1996 George W. S. Abbey — 1997
President George H. W. Bush — 1998 Dr. Christopher C. Kraft, Jr. — 1999 Capt. John W. Young — 2000
Tommy Holloway — 2001 Dr. George E. Mueller — 2002 Roy S. Estess — 2003 Neil A. Armstrong — 2004
Dr. Glynn S. Lunney — 2005 Col. Eileen Collins — 2006 Eugene F. "Gene" Kranz — 2007 Capt. Eugene Cernan — 2008

To give credit where it is due, the initial directors of the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement are listed in the archives as follows: Owen Morris, Charles S. Hardwick, Charles A. Jacobson, Jack Lister, A. M. "Al" Jowid, Charles H. Hartman, H. Don Kirk, Billy R. Smith, Robert G. Minor and Robert J. Wren. Of these, seven are past presidents of this club.

Special recognition was given to Dr. Floyd D. Boze who served diligently, always in attendance at the planning meetings and never missing the event with his wife, Nancy, for many years. He was designated Advisory Director and, at the time was the only member of SCRC who had served as District Governor.

Others deserving recognition for their work and contributions to the beginning of this organization and event are: John Watson, John Francis, Frank Morgan, Ron Blilie, Bob Mitchell, Vic Maria, Hal Neely, David Hamblin, Terry Stock, Don Robinson and Sam Boyd, three of which are past presidents of this club.

If any one has been omitted, it is certainly unintentional and the editor will make the appropriate recognition upon receipt of names.

The Rotary National Space Award and Dinner has become the preeminent event of its kind, as was dreamed and planned. Today, there is none equal. Many good men and woman, mostly Rotarians, continue the tradition so early established — a dream fostered, nurtured and matured. All Rotarians are encouraged to participate, certainly to attend the award dinner held in early Spring each year.

Warning: Wear a shirt or dress whose top is at least a size to large because your chest will surely swell as you see the party that this club hosts.

The editor acknowledges the work and memory of Bob Wren whose notes and narrative provided the material for this article. Thanks, Bob. This certainly is a story worth telling and remembering.

If you would like to see the permanent trophy, it is on display at Space Center Houston. I am sure that if you tell them you are a member of SCRC and want to see the trophy display, they will let you in without a ticket.

Making up in not 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 Retirement 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/pdfs/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.	3 years
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.	26 years
Bob Wren.	27 years

The Houston Rotary Club is hosting the Lombardi Award this year on December 10, starting at 6:00pm. Below you will find the invitation and attached you will find the table sponsorship information. If you are interested, please contact Bill Taylor. If we have enough interest, we may consider getting a table together.

You are cordially invited to attend the
2008 Rotary Lombardi Award
Wednesday, December 10, 2008
Hilton Americas-Houston
1600 Lamar
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tickets

\$250.00 per person
Extra Point Table Sponsorship - \$2,500
Field Goal Table Sponsorship - \$5,000
Touchdown Table Sponsorship - \$10,000

(Details on Table Sponsorships are attached for your review)

Underwriting Opportunities available – contact Geraldine Mullins at 713-973-9936 for details

Benefiting
American Cancer Society

RSVP

geraldine@rotaryhouston.org
713-973-9936

Or mail in your payment to
Rotary Lombardi Award
8582 Katy Freeway, Ste. 225
Houston, TX 77024