



The Blastoff

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Space Center
 P. O. Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058
 Meeting Monday Noon at Bay Oaks Country Club
 14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Clear Lake City
 Phone: 281.488.7888 * Chartered 1964
 Volume 44 Number 34 April 30, 2007

PROGRAMS:

- Today ---Lisa Hamilton - Arts Alliance Center, CL
- May 7th - Excellence in Education Awards
- May 14th - Robert Smith, III, VP Federal Reserve Bank
- May 21st - Walter Branson, Brazosport RC - update
on the work in Guerro, MX
- May 28th - NO MEETING
- June 4th - Texas Veterans Museum
- June 11th - Firefighter of the Year Award
- June 18th - Rice & Uof H Football Coaches
- June 25th - Installation of Officers & Directors '07-'08

Say Happy Birthday to ---

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Dick Meyer..... | Apr 30 |
| Jerry Hammack..... | May 02 |
| David Coney..... | May 04 |
| Alan Wylie..... | May 10 |
| Tom Kloves..... | May 10 |
| Bob Wren..... | May 12 |
| Jim Hargrove..... | May 12 |
| Luciano Gaigher..... | May 14 |
| Carlos Villagomez..... | May 20 |
| Geoff Atwater | May 20 |

*Thank you to Delia Stephens
 for taking the job of Program
 Chair 2007-2008!!!*



Agenda

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Luncheon Begins | 11:45 |
| Call to Order | 12:00 |
| Song | Debby McBride |
| Invocation .. | Carlos Villagomez |
| Pledge | |
| 4-Way Test | |
| Introductions | |
| Announcements | 12:10 |
| Program | 12:30 |
| Adjourn | 1:00 |

SCRC Fellowships all @ 6:30 p.m.

- May 01.....Topwater Grill, 815 Ave. O, San Leon
- May 15 Zio's 820 W. Bay Area Blvd.
- May 29 Bailey's NASA Pkwy
- Jun 12 Buffalo Wild Wings 528 Bay Area Blvd.
- Jun 26 Star Fire Grill 2412 Bay Area Blvd.

For information on the Guerrero Mexico
 Eye Clinic Project, go to the following site.
 It is well worth the look. Also, ask
 Johnny White and Pat Doughty
 about their experience.

<http://guerreroclinic.org/>



Gov. Suzi's Calendar

www.rotary5890.org/DistEvents/PostEvents.htm

Suzi Howe, District Governor 2006-2007. E-mail: suzihowe@earthlink.net
281.334.7345 (Work & Work Fax); 713.553.5890 (Rotary Mobile);
281.482.2653 (Home & Rotary Fax); 713.408.0145 (Work Mobile).

Suzi Says.....

“Every Rotarian, Every Year”

Support the **Rotary Foundation** as a sustaining member by donating \$100 each year.

Definition of an Effective Rotary Club:

Effective Rotary Clubs --

1. *Sustain and/or grow their membership base.*
2. *Implement successful service projects in their community & communities in other countries.*
3. *Support The Rotary Foundation, both financially and through program participation.*
4. *Develop leaders capable of serving in Rotary beyond the club level.*



**Rotary Theme
2006-2007**

PolioPlus



Rotary International

The Rotarian

Have you read the May Issue?



Should we take SCRC to the next level by implementing the Club Leadership Plan? Do you know what the Club Leadership Plan is? It includes developing a long-range plan. Do you remember when we had a Long-Range Planning Committee led by Bob Wren? Does SCRC know where it is going? Find more information at www.rotary.org.

Rotary has eradicated polio in the world, can Rotary eradicate poverty in the world? This is a focus of the May issue.

May 4, 1987, the U. S. Supreme Court handed down its decision allowing women to join Rotary. SCRC immediately embraced the decision and has elected 4 women presidents and a District Governor.

Remember, when you are finished reading, turn your issue into the check-in desk for use by the Red Badge Committee.

Events Calendar

- Club Board of Directors....3rd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees
.....2nd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Rotary Foundation Committee ... last Wed. of month
-
-
- RI Convention, Salt Lake CityJune 2007

OFFICERS

President: Geoff Atwater
President Elect: Dick Gregg, III
Secretary: Mike Hernandez
Treasurer: Gary Johnson
Sgt @ Arms: Rafael Lugo

DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Club Administration: | Mark Humphrey |
| Public Relations: | Scott Rainey |
| Membership | Bill Taylor Fundraising Mike Cornett |
| Community Svc A | Tony Bloomfield |
| Community Svc B | Pam Culpepper |
| International Svc A | Jerrold Dewease |
| International Svc B | Dick Kidder |
| Vocational Service | Art Wood |

OTHERS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill Lowes | Programs Attendance |
| | Murray Epstein Bulletin |
| Editor | Billy Smith Photographer |
| | Bob Mitchell Song Leader |
| | Debby McBride Pianist |
| | Job Open |
| Laura Hale | Red Badgers |

DISTRICT GOVERNORS

Suzie Howe 2006-2007
Billy Weseman 1993-1994
Floyd Boze 1981-1982

DISTRICT POSITIONS

Suzi Howe, Dist Directory Chair
Suzi Howe, Finance Comm. Chair
Suzi Howe, DG Nom. Comm'09-'10 Ex Officio
Hilmar Ziessig, Co-Chair International Service
Alan Wylie, Youth Exchange Co-Chair
Art Wood, Youth Exchange Treasurer

MAKEUP OPPORTUNITIES:

Tuesday @ noon

Pearland
Golfcrest Country Club
2501 Country Club Drive

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

Wednesday @ noon

Pasadena South
Baywood Country Club
5500 Genoa Red Bluff

Friendswood @ noon

Village on the Park
Retirement Center
400 E. Parkwood

Thursday @ &:7:00 a.m.

Seabrook
Lakewood Yacht Club
2425 NASA Parkway

Thursday @ noon

League City
Estaban's Fiesta Shack
131 League Street

Friday @ noon

Pasadena
First United Methodist Church
1062 Farimont Pkwy

Make up @ an E-club

http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/eclub_list.pdf

The Blastoff Staff

Editor: Billy Smith
billys@sbcglobal.net
Photographer: Bob Mitchell
Deadline for submission of material for publication: 5:00 p.m. Wednesday

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- * Gene & Donna Tromblee
- * University of Houston Clear Lake

- * Kirchoff Peterson Co.
- * Texas Wealth Management
- * AOVCO
- * JSC Federal Credit Union
- * J. Pamela Photography
- * Hydrocarbon Resource Recovery
- * Olive Murphy-Riker, CPA
- * Addie Wiseman, Houston City Council
- * Wells Fargo Bank
- * Texas Citizens Bank
- * Lockheed Martin
- * Cimarron
- * Waldron & Schneider, Attorneys
- * Shelley Sekula Gibbs, Houston City Council
- * Bill Bailey, Constable Pct. 8, Harris County
- * Steve Phelps, Port of Houston Commissioner
- * Louie Ditta, Justice of Peace, Pct. 8, Pos. 2
- * John & Suzanne Urbanek
- * Benson's Wheel Alignment
- * Vertex Energy

April 23, 2007 was an historic day for Space Center Rotary. It is my understanding that we are only the 27th out of more than 500 Rotary Clubs in the State of Texas to become 100% Paul Harris Fellows. Suzi Howe, 5890 District Governor, was among the Rotary Dignitaries in attendance. DG Howe also presented Rotary Foundation District Service Awards: to Pat Dougherty, counselor for our Ambassadorial Scholar from Korea, Eun Hye Kong; David Coney and Gerald Dewease for their leadership in helping our club attain 100% status; Bob Wren and Earl Maudlin, Jr. for becoming major donors to the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Foundation District Service Award is given to those individuals for outstanding service in promoting the Rotary Foundation and its goals of world understanding and peace.

Pam Culpepper



*Photos by
Pam Culpepper*

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Foundation Recognizes Winners 2007

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation presented Apollo “Failure is Not An Option” Flight Director **Eugene F. “Gene” Kranz** with the prestigious 2007 National Space Trophy at their annual gala held April 20 at the Houston Hyatt Regency hotel.

The award has been presented annually for the past 21 years to an individual who has excelled in furthering national goals in the field of space. The winner is selected by the prestigious RNASA Board of Advisors.

Mr. Kranz’s citation read: “For outstanding achievements in his pivotal role in the development of flight control operations for all NASA manned space flights. World renowned for his resolve during the Apollo 13 trans-lunar abort rescue, failure was never an option.” – **Joseph P. Kerwin**, former Astronaut and President Wyle Labs (Retired).

Former NBC news correspondent and host of the *Today Show*, **Jim Hartz** served as Master of Ceremonies, and **Dr. Christopher C. Kraft, Jr.**, former Director of NASA Johnson Space Center and a previous winner of the National Space Trophy, presented the trophy to Mr. Kranz. He said, “Gene Kranz has been one of the leading contributors to the exploration of space since the beginning of the space program in the U S. He has been prominent throughout his career in developing the concepts of flight control and is particularly known for his leadership and development of the flight control teams upon which human space flight depended for its success. He is most famous for the large roll he played in the rescue of Apollo 13. Kranz continues to be a bulwark in the space flight world and has lent his expertise to many groups throughout the country by providing advice on how to motivate people.”

Astronauts **James Reilly, II.** and **Joan Higginbotham** presented the RNASA Stellar Awards to 20 individuals and 6 teams. Each year the RNASA Foundation solicits nominations from NASA, the military and industry leaders in human and unmanned spaceflight programs for individual and team achievements to be recognized with Stellar Awards. This year’s 100 individual and 43 team nominations were evaluated based on which accomplishments hold the greatest promise for furthering future activities in space, and the winners in each of four categories were announced at the banquet. The 2007 Stellar Evaluators were former National Space Trophy winners Dr. Aaron Cohen, Dr. Chris Kraft, Jr., and Dr. Glynn Lunney. Ms. Higginbotham, who worked 53 shuttle missions at Kennedy Space Center before becoming an astronaut, said, “The Stellar awards are important because they honor those who often work behind the scenes and whose careers and accomplishments may not be as visible as others.” Dr. Reilly, who will fly again on the next shuttle mission, currently scheduled for June 8, said, “We are all aware it takes the dedication and effort of thousands to get us into space, and these nominees represent the best of our best. Without the contributions of all the folks involved in the space program, and particularly the Stellar Nominees, it would be impossible to ensure a strong space program for our future.”

Six Stellar Awards were presented in the Early Career category that is for individuals up to age 33. The winners are:

Capt Brian M. Clifford of the USAF - Exceptional contributions as the Flight Commander for the first two Vandenberg AFB Delta IV Missions, successfully placing National Reconnaissance Office and Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) payloads in orbit in direct support of the Global War on Terror.

Mr. Robert Crouch of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne - Dedication and leadership in supporting safe flight of the Space Shuttle.

Mr. Joshua B. Hopkins of Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co. - Development of safe trajectories enabling Atlas V to carry commercial passengers, and authoring the *International Reference Guide to Space Launch Systems*, which has become the industry standard reference on launch vehicles.

Mr. Matthew P. Scudder of The Boeing Company - Significant knowledge and expertise resulting in recognition by the *ISS* program as the *ISS* expert in numerous program areas, including plasma contactor units, remote power control modules, electrical power system orbital replaceable unit firmware, and NASA’s Java mission evaluation workstation system data gathering and display software. Mr. Mark Mulqueen accepted the award for Mr. Scudder.

Ms. Dana J. Weigel of NASA JSC - A history of strong technical ability and leadership resulting in her selection as a flight director in 2005, where she immediately began leading Mission Control in critical activities.

Mr. David R. York of The Boeing Company - Outstanding contributions in resolving critical technical issues as a result of his expertise in the area of large flexible body structural dynamics, and specifically for developing a tool currently used to calculate dynamic transient loads to help ensure the safety of the *ISS* crew.

Seven Stellar Awards were presented in the Middle-Career category that is for ages 33-50. The winners are:

Mr. Anthony J. Ceccacci of NASA JSC - Twenty-six years of key leadership in manned space flight, spanning flight control in all phases of shuttle flight, with unparalleled depth and breadth of systems expertise and operations experience and an exemplary record leading Mission Control as a shuttle flight director.

Mr. Robert R. Cuadros of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne - Outstanding support for the advancement of rocket propulsion systems for the nation's space programs.

Ms. Kimberly B. Doering of NASA JSC - Outstanding contributions to the safe and highly successful Space Shuttle operations to continue the assembly of the *ISS* in 2005 and 2006.

Mr. Timothy G. Leonard of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne - Outstanding technical excellence in development and demonstration of engine throttle technology in support of space exploration upper stage and lunar lander applications.

Mrs. Wanda A. Sigur of Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, Michoud Operations - Outstanding leadership demonstrated during the return-to-flight effort on the Space Shuttle's External Tank program.

Mr. Christopher E. Singer of NASA MSFC - Unwavering pursuit of innovative approaches to mitigate critical debris sources from propulsion elements and enable the safe return to flight of the Space Shuttle.

Mr. Carson W. Sparks of United Space Alliance - Service as a lead engineer for the Mission Operations Directorate's Flight Design and Dynamics division's Ascent/Entry Flight Dynamics unit, with significant contributions to safety of flight.

Seven Stellar Awards were presented in the Late Career category for individuals over 50. The winners are:

Mr. Eugene J. Beckett of United Space Alliance - Outstanding dedication and extraordinary contributions to the management of human spaceflight from Apollo to Space Shuttle programs.

Mr. Terry Boardman of ATK Launch Systems - Lifetime achievement for 30 years of exceptional vision, innovation and dedication in rocket motor technology development and engineering leadership on the Space Shuttle program.

Mr. Dan C Brandenstein of Lockheed Martin - Lifetime contributions to the advancement of space exploration and human space flight, with an outstanding career serving as a naval aviator, astronaut, pilot and commander of four Space Shuttle missions, corporate executive and program manager for the NASA Mission Support Operations Contract, and leading visionary safety advocacy and educational outreach initiatives.

Mr. Glenn M. Ecord of NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) - Setting up fracture control methodology for human spaceflight hardware that has allowed for the improved design of space vehicles and components and is utilized internationally.

Mr. James W. Kennedy of NASA Kennedy Space Center - Outstanding leadership and technical direction of NASA's pioneering space endeavors and the Vision for Space Exploration (VSE).

Mr. Tommie C. Lacefield of Lockheed Martin Space Systems - Demonstrated excellence in furthering the future of space throughout a career at the Navy, NASA, and most recently as Lockheed Martin Project Orion Program Manager.

Mr. Robert T. Savely of NASA JSC - Extended, exemplary career advancing technology and furthering NASA's critical interests in software, robotics, and navigation systems, affecting space missions from Apollo through the return to the Moon.

Six Stellar Awards were presented in the Team category. The winners are:

Education and Outreach Program Team of the National Space Biomedical Research Institute - Performance as a nationally recognized, top-tier program that is pioneering new models for exemplary teaching, training and public outreach, in support of the Vision for Space Exploration. The award was accepted by William Thomson on behalf of the team.

ISS Flight Software Team of The Boeing Company - Outstanding dedication and performance in reaching *ISS* assembly complete functionality, including providing on-orbit software to six-sigma level quality and gaining Software Engineering Institute certification to Capability Maturity Model Integration Level 5. The award was accepted by Gary W. Cooper on behalf of the team.

ISS Guidance, Navigation, and Control Team of The Boeing Company - Outstanding performance in overcoming serious threats to the *ISS* guidance, navigation and control system after the *Columbia* tragedy, most especially developing solutions for the control moment gyroscope, supporting shuttle return-to-flight, and resumption of *ISS* assembly. The award was accepted by Gregory W. Vajdos on behalf of the team.

Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Development and Operations team of NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory - Successful development, launch, and operations of the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which is conducting remote sensing and world class science of the planet Mars. The award was accepted by James E. Graf on behalf of the team.

Nanotube Research and Development Team of ERC Inc. - Exceptional dedication, hard work, and technical excellence in furthering the understanding of nanomaterials and their application to fuel cells, lightweight composites, and carbon dioxide removal systems. The award was accepted by Sivaram S. Arepalli on behalf of the team.

Stardust Flight and Recovery Team of NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory - Exceptional achievement during its historic seven-year planetary space flight to bring to Earth samples of primordial material from a cometary nucleus, unchanged since the birth of our solar system 4.6 billion years ago, enabling study of the origin and evolution of our solar system and life on Earth. The award was accepted by Thomas C. Duxbury on behalf of the team.

Group photos of the winners, banquet speakers and presenters, and Mr. Kranz's profile that appeared in the souvenir program book will be posted as soon as they are available at www.RNASA.org or can be obtained via request to admin@rnasa.org. Photos of individual Stellar winners are available on request.

Special thanks to Space Center Rotary for supporting Hector Marin and Dick Meyer's MS 150 ride from Houston to Austin on April 21-22, 2007. The "hat pass" by Space Center Rotary raised \$328.00 in support of The Multiple Sclerosis Society.

This two-day bike ride isn't a race, but it does raise money in the race to find the cure for multiple sclerosis. Last year, 13,000 cyclists raised \$11.4 million to help those living with MS, a degenerative disease of the central nervous system. Researchers are making progress, but the cause and cure are still over the horizon. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society funds research to find the cause, cure and treatment of MS.

Yours in Rotary,
Richard J. Meyer



The following was submitted for publication by J. B. Fox:

Newsletter for Space Center Rotary

April 15, 2007

I am sure that most of you have been approached to leave your present Electric provider and join theirs. Many of these companies have offered gifts, and actual dollars to join them. It is the purpose of this newsletter to provide factual information in order for you to decide if you want to change or if you don't. So here goes. In January 1, 2002, the Texas Public Utilities Commission ordered the deregulation of the electric industry in Texas and became official on that day. Many Companies scrambled to become a Licensed "Retail Provider." Not just anyone could become a retail provider unless they had a million dollar backing. At the beginning, there were about 79 companies who became Retail providers. The PUC has established a list of these providers and they call their page "Power to Choose" The page is available at this address:

<http://www.powertochoose.com/electricchoice/compareresults.asp?zip=77058>

The URL above is for the zip code 77058. You can insert your zip code and get results for your area. Note: A word about this list; in all fairness to the companies listed, the list is randomized every time it is accessed. This is to prevent the mistaken notion that the company on top is the best! All of these companies are accredited companies by the PUC and overseen by ERCOT (Energy Reliability Council of Texas). This council assures that the companies abide by the laws of both the PUC and ERCOT. It is recommended that you print out the list of companies for your area for better comparison.

TRUTH & FACTS ABOUT DEREGULATION: None of these companies listed as Energy Retail Providers actually provide electricity to your home. These companies purchase electricity (on their books) and sell you electricity at some rate per kilowatt hour. There is a single company in most of Houston that is called the "Wires Company". The wires company for Houston is Centerpoint for the most part. They lay the lines, repair downed lines, repair transformers and they read your meter. The reading is sent to your "provider" and they send you the bill. There is no physical connection to the electric lines in your home. When you choose a company that suits your needs, there is no change in down payment or loss of ability to switch back if for some reason you become dissatisfied. Rates are listed in pennies per kilowatt hour (Kwh). A good checkpoint in ones comparison is 1000 kilowatt- hours. Assuming you use 1000 kilowatt hours in a month, and the difference between the company you use now and one that is 2 cents less would amount to \$20.00 savings. In the hot Texas months, usage can go as high as 3000 kwh or \$60.00 savings. Fixed rates offered by companies are good for a year usually. The fixed rate is applied just as is the month-to-month rate all year long. Be informed however, that the fixed rate comes with a proviso. If for some reason you want to leave the fixed rate, there is a fairly large penalty for doing so. This is largely to repay the company for taking the risk of a price increase. Changing "Billing Companies" ("Energy Providers") will not take effect immediately, but is delayed by the PUC getting their books in order. The delay can be as long as three weeks. When changing from one company to another, the PUC or the company's Quality Assurance Department will call to assure that you haven't been slammed (some eager beaver listing you without your knowledge). Problems have occurred when customers are late with their payments. These companies will charge a late fee, so beware and pay on or before time. Some customers outside of Harris County may have a "Wires Company" other than CenterPoint. However, all of the foregoing will still be true. At some point in investigating these companies, the word GRID will be used. The GRID is combined of power generating plants e.g. hydroelectric, coal, nuclear, wind etc. feeding their power into large transmission lines that ultimately go to local distribution plants (CenterPoint for example) where the voltage is reduced for residential and small commercial use. Well my friends, I hope this information will help you when or if you decide to take of advantage of the Power to Choose.

YIR, JB



Be cautious as you get close up for pictures of those great Texas bluebonnets!!