



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 45 Number 1 July 2, 2007

Programs:

- Today — GSE Team (Mike Dennard)**
 July 9 ... Shrimporee Planning, Mike Hernandez, Chr.
 July 16 Bill Read, National Hurricane Center
 July 23 Mike Pede, Gen Mgr, Bay Area Toros
 July 30 Jim Palmer, Emergency Mgmt, City of Houston
 Sept 3 Labor Day
 Oct 8 Columbus Day
 Nov 12 Veteran's Program
 Dec 24 Christmas Eve
 Dec 31 New Year's Eve
 Jan 21 Martin Luther King's Birthday
 Feb 18 President's Day
 May 26 Memorial Day

Meeting Agenda



- Luncheon Begins 11:45
 Call to Order 12:00
 Song Debby McBride
 Invocation Carlos Villagomez
 Pledge
 4-Way Test
 Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests
 Announcements
 Program 12:30

Say Happy Birthday to —

- Jim Wyatt 07-July
 Bob Richmond 18-July
 Rodolfo Gonzalez 28-July
 Jim Sweeney 29-July

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Shrimporee Planning Committee Meetings
 July 9th, August 6th & 20th; September 10th, 17
 & 24th; October 1st, 9th, 15th & 22nd
 All at JSCFCU @ :15 p.m.

MAKEUP OPPORTUNITIES:

Tuesday

Pearland @ noon
Gofcrest Country Club
2501 Country Club Drive
La Porte @ 12:10 p.m.
St. John Episcopal Church
Broadway @ Ave. G

Wednesday

Pasadena South @ noon
Baywood Country Club
5500 Genoa Red Bluff
Friendswood @ noon
Village on the Park Retirement Center
400 E. Parkwood

Thursday

Seabrook @ 7:00 a.m.
Lakewood Yacht Club
2425 NASA Parkway
League City @ noon
Estaban's Fiesta Shack
1313 Main Street

Friday

Pasadena @ noon
First United Methodist Church
1062 Fairmont Pkwy

Make up @ an E-club

<http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcent>

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- Hydrocarbon Resource Recovery (Scott Rainey)
- J. Pamela Photography (Pam Culpepper)
- JSC Federal Credit Union (Mike Brown)
- Kirchoff Peterson Co. (Don Kirchoff)
- L. D. Bowles Associates (Lamar Bowles)
- One Stop Party Shop (Mark & Karen Kessler)
- Prosperity Bank (Mark Humphrey)
- Space Center Tire & Auto (Jerrold Dewease)
- State Farm Insurance— Johnny R. White, Agent
- Texas Citizens Bank (Mike Cornett)
- Texas Wealth Management (Mike Hesse)
- Gene & Donna Tromblee



Events Calendar

- Club Board of Directors . . . 3rd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees
2nd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Rotary Foundation Comlast Wed @ 7 a.m.
- District Membership Seminar . Aug. 11th
- Shrimporee Oct. 27th
- District Leadership Institute Jan. 11th
- District Conference — Galveston . . TBD
- Springoree TBD
- RI Convention, Los Angeles . . June 2008

Sponsor Benefits for \$1,000:

- * 20 tickets to the Shrimporee
- * 2 tickets to the Springoree
- * 2 entries to the golf tournament
- * Ad in the Blastoff until July 1st 2008

Sign up today & take advantage of the full year of recognition.

Contact Scott Rainey

srams@aol.com

DUES ARE DUE FOR 2007-2008

Annual club dues in the amount of \$210 are due on July 1st and delinquent if not paid by July 31st. Dues may be paid in two installments of \$105 each on July 1st and January 1st if total payment would be a financial hardship. Make your checks payable to Space Center Rotary Club.

Shrimporee Major Beneficiaries 2007

- InterFaith Caring Ministries
- Boy Scouts
- Builders Without Borders

One of Pres. Dick's goals for 2007 — 2008 is to increase membership by a net of + 5. He will need the help of all members. A few open classifications will be published each week to help us focus on potential members. Some are:

- Florist
- Pharmacist
- Beautician
- Physician
- Funeral Director
- Automobile Dealer
- Scouting
- Psychologist
- Health Care Administration
- Public Relations
- Swimming Pool Construction
- Hotel Management
- Printing
- Nutritionist

from Disorder in American Courts —

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?
WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

June 25, 2007

Officers & Directors for 2007-2008
were installed by PDG John Painter

Officers:

- President Dick Gregg, III
- President Elect Mike Hernandez
- Secretary Gary Johnson
- Treasurer Marilyn Musial
- Sargent at Arms Jon McKinnie
- Immediate Past President Geoff Atwater

Directors:

- Club Administration Mark Humphrey
- Public Relations David Coney
- Membership Bill Taylor
- Fundraising Mike Cornett
- Community Service A Belinda Skloss
- Community Service B Peter Wuenchel
- International Service A Jerrold Dewease
- International Service B Dick Kidder
- Vocational Service Art Wood

Other Leadership:

- Programs Delia Stephens
- Endowment Foundation Chr. Bob Wren
- RNASAF Floyd Bennett
- Blastoff Editor Billy Smith
- Photographer Bob Mitchell
- Meeting Check-in Bill Taylor
- Song Leader Debby McBride

Past District Governors:

- Suzi Howe
- Billy Weseman
- Floyd Boze

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The National Anthem: How it Came to Be Written

In 1812, the United States went to war with Great Britain, primarily over freedom of the seas. We were in the right. For two years, we held off the British, even though we were still a rather weak country. Great Britain was in a life and death struggle with Napoleon. In fact, just as the United States declared war, Napoleon marched off to invade Russia. If he won, as everyone expected, he would control Europe, and Great Britain would be isolated. It was no time for her to be involved in an American war.

At first, our seamen proved better than the British. After we won a battle on Lake Erie in 1813, the American commander, Oliver Hazard Perry, sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." However, the weight of the British navy beat down our ships eventually. New England, hard-hit by a tightening blockade, threatened secession. Meanwhile, Napoleon was beaten in Russia and in 1814 was forced to abdicate. Great Britain now turned its attention to the United States, launching a three-pronged attack. The northern prong was to come down Lake Champlain toward New York and seize parts of New England. The southern prong was to go up the Mississippi, take New Orleans and paralyze the west. The central prong was to head for the mid-Atlantic states and then attack Baltimore, the greatest port south of New York. If Baltimore was taken, the nation, which still hugged the Atlantic coast, could be split in two. The fate of the United States, then, rested to a large extent on the success or failure of the central prong.

The British reached the American coast, and on August 24, 1814, took Washington, D.C. Then they moved up the Chesapeake Bay toward Baltimore. On September 12, they arrived and found 1,000 men in Fort McHenry, whose guns controlled the harbor. If the British wished to take Baltimore, they would have to take the fort. On one of the British ships was an aged physician, William Beanes, who had been arrested in Maryland and brought along as a prisoner. Francis Scott Key, a lawyer and friend of the physician, had come to the ship to negotiate his release. The British captain was willing, but the two Americans would have to wait. It was now the night of September 13, and the bombardment of Fort McHenry was about to start.

As twilight deepened, Key and Beanes saw the American flag flying over Fort McHenry. Through the night, they heard bombs bursting and saw the red glare of rockets. They knew the fort was resisting and the American flag was still flying. But toward morning the bombardment ceased, and a dread silence fell. Either Fort McHenry had surrendered and the British flag flew above it, or the bombardment had failed and the American flag still flew. As dawn began to brighten the eastern sky, Key and Beanes stared out at the fort, trying to see which flag flew over it. He and the physician must have asked each other over and over, "Can you see the flag?"

After it was all finished, Key wrote a four stanza poem telling the events of the night. Called "The Defense of Fort McHenry," it was published in newspapers and swept the nation. Someone noted that the words fit an old English tune called, "To Anacreon in Heaven" -- a difficult melody with an uncomfortably large vocal range. For obvious reasons, Key's work became known as "The Star Spangled Banner," and in 1931 Congress declared it the official anthem of the United States.

Now that you know the story, here are the words. Presumably, the old doctor is speaking. This is what he asks Key:

Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

"Ramparts," in case you don't know, are the protective walls or other elevations that surround a fort. The first stanza asks a question. The second gives an answer:

On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mist of the deep
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream
'Tis the star-spangled banner. Oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

"The towering steep" is again, the ramparts. The bombardment has failed, and the British can do nothing more but sail away, their mission a failure. In the third stanza I feel Key allows himself to gloat over the American triumph. In the aftermath of the bombardment, Key probably was in no mood to act otherwise! During World War I when the British were our staunchest allies, this third stanza was not sung. However, I know it, so here it is:

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?

Their blood has washed out their foul footstep's pollution.
 No refuge could save the hireling and slave
 From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave,
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The fourth stanza, a pious hope for the future, should be sung more slowly than the other three and with even deeper feeling:

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
 Between their loved homes and the war's desolation,
 Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land
 Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
 Then conquer we must, for our cause is just,
 And this be our motto -- "In God is our trust."
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

I hope you will look at the national anthem with new eyes. Listen to it, the next time you have a chance, with new ears. Pay attention to the words. And don't let them ever take it away ... not even one word of it.



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Celebrate a Safe Independence Day!



History. In the United States, Independence Day (commonly known as “the Fourth of July” or “July 4th”) is a federal holiday celebrating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from Great Britain. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, beer, picnics, baseball games, and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Fireworks have been associated with the Fourth of July since 1777. In 1777, thirteen guns were fired, once at morning and again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Philadelphia celebrated the first anniversary in a manner a modern American would find quite familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews and fireworks. Ships were decked with red, white and blue bunting. In 1778, General George Washington marked the Fourth of July with a double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute. Across the Atlantic Ocean, ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France. In 1779, July 4 fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday July 5. In 1781, Massachusetts was the first legislature to recognize the Fourth of July. In 1783, Moravians in Salem, North Carolina held the first celebration of the Fourth of July in the country with a challenging music program assembled by Johann Friedrich Peter. This work was titled the Psalm of Joy. In 1791, First recorded under “Independence Day” name. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day a holiday, albeit unpaid, for federal employees. In 1941, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day a federal paid holiday.

Customs.

Customs. Originally entitled Yankee Doodle, this is one of several versions of a scene painted by A. M. Willard that came to be known as The Spirit of '76. Often imitated (or parodied), it is a familiar symbol of American Independence Day, the only holiday that celebrates the United States, is a national holiday marked by patriotic displays. Similar to other summer-themed events, Fourth of July celebrations often take place outdoors. Independence Day is a federal holiday, so all non-essential federal institutions (like the postal service and federal courts) are closed on that day. Many politicians make it a point on this day to appear at a public event to praise the nation's heritage, society and people. Speeches and editorials may invoke American Revolutionary themes such as the founding fathers (including John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and George Washington, the Constitution, the Liberty Bell, and democratic principles such as liberty, freedom equality under the law, inalienable rights, and representative government. Families often mark the Fourth of July with a picnic or barbecue, and take advantage of the long weekend or off-day to gather with relatives. Decorations (e.g., streamers balloons, and clothing) generally are colored red, white, and blue due to the colors of the American Flag. Because Independence Day is in the summer, bathing suits have once in a while been given the American flag design. Parades are often held in the morning, baseball games played (July 4th being nearly halfway into the baseball season), and fireworks displays in public parks in the evening. Other traditions include face painting for children and tossing of a football or frisbee.

Fireworks. Independence Day fireworks are often accompanied by a pops orchestra playing patriotic songs such as “The Star-Spangled Banner”, “God Bless America”, “America the Beautiful”, “My Country, Tis of Thee”, “This Land Is Your Land”, “Stars and Stripes Forever”, and, regionally, “Yankee Doodle” in northeastern states and “Dixie” in southern states. Some of the lyrics recall images of the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812. While the “1812 Overture” refers to Russia's defeat of Napoleon, it has been traditionally used by the Boston Pops and broadcast nationwide on PBS, so many Americans also associate this musical work with the July 4th fireworks.

Information taken from Wikipedia.

Lexus of Clear Lake

Joey Dupuis

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