

the *Blastoff*

Official Newsletter of
The Rotary Club of Space Center
P O Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058
Meetings Monday 11:45 at Bay Oaks Country Club
Clear Lake City Ph. 281.488.7888
Chartered 1964

July 13, 2009

www.SpaceCenterRotary.org

Editor: Jon McKinnie

Photographer: Bob Mitchell

Ass't. Photographer: John Lee



Rotary International
President 2009-2010



John Kenny

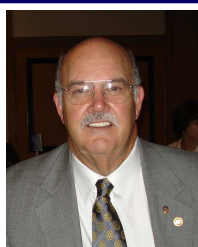


Rotary District 5890
Governor 2009-2010
Ed Charlesworth



Chris Schneider
Alvin, Seabrook, Space Center
District Assistant Governor

A message from Pres. Jon:



That went well, no one ran for the doors!!!

Our first club meeting of the new Rotary year, with me at the helm, is in the books. Thanks so much for actively participating in our "Job Fair for Rotarians". I really appreciate each and every one of you for stepping forward and recommitting for this coming year. It will be tough to match this past year's performance under Mike Hernandez leadership, but, with your assistance, I am committed to work harder than ever to match last year's accomplishments. Let's make "Club of the Year" two years in a row!!!

I hope you approved the minor additions to our club meeting. I think it is so important that each and every Club Member and Guest enjoys the camaraderie of Space Center Rotary Club and looks forward to the challenges of the new year.

Now it's time to get down to work, prepare for an outstanding Shrimporee, ramp up many community service projects, work hard, live by Grace and work harder. While having fun all the time!!!

Yours in Rotary Service, as always

Jon McKinnie

President 2009-2010

Past District Governors
From SCRC

Dr. Floyd D. Boze
1981-1982



Billy Weseman
1993-1994

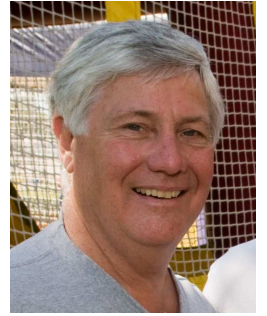


Suzi Howe
2006-2007

Service Above Self

Programs —

John Nugent, Chair 2009-2010



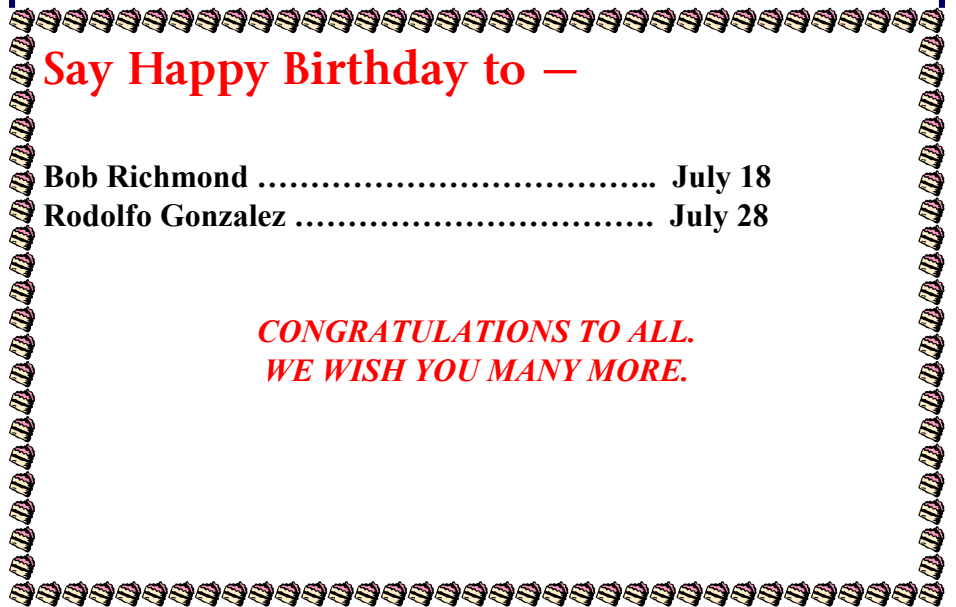
July 6—Job Fair for Rotarians

Jon McKinnie, Club President

July 13— The Changing World of Work

“The Employers and Employees Point of View”

Randy Hopkins, Pres, Team Excellence



Say Happy Birthday to —

Bob Richmond July 18

Rodolfo Gonzalez July 28

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL.
WE WISH YOU MANY MORE.**

JULY IS LITERACY MONTH

**AMOCO FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION**

**AOVOCO
Art Oswald**

**BASTION
TECHNOLOGIES
Mike Hernandez**

**BELINDA K.
SKLOSS, LLC**

EVENTS CALENDAR

Endowment Foundation Board 2nd Tuesday @ 7 a.m.
Club Board of Directors 3rd Tuesday @ 7 a.m.
RNASA Committee 3rd Thursday @ 5:30 p.m.
Rotary Foundation Committee last Wednesday @ 7 a.m.
Membership Committee 2nd Monday @ 1:15 p.m.
2009 Shrimporee Saturday, October 17th

SHRIMPOREE PLANNING MEETINGS @ JSCFCU @ 5:30 p.m.

Thursday July 23rd
Thursday August 6th
Tuesday August 18th
Tuesday September 1st
Tuesday September 8th
Tuesday September 15th
Tuesday September 22nd
Tuesday September 29th
Tuesday October 6th
Tuesday October 13th

John Wilson, Chair: jewilson102@comcast.net

SCRC SOCIALS [6:30 p.m.]

July 14th DOS MAS, 103 W. Bay Area Blvd.
July 28th MELY'S SEABROOK, 3659 NASA Pkwy.
August 11th B J's, 515 West Bay Area Blvd.
August 24th COLESSEUM RESTAURANT, 16608 El Camino Real

Contact Roger Donnelly.

Ridonnelly@aol.com

**BEN BRIDGE
JEWELERS
Travis Vermeer**

BILLY R. SMITH
Attorney at Law
Board Certified in
Estate Planning, Probate &
Real Estate Law

**DELIA STEPHENS
Attorney at Law**

**DRDA
Olive Murphy-
Riker, CPA**

GAY & REITZ
Attorneys at Law

GREGG & GREGG,
P.C.
Attorneys at Law

GURRY
MECHANICAL,
L.P.
Ken Gurry

HOPPING EYE
ASSOCIATES
Vissett Sun

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR

August is Membership Month, a special time of the year when the entire Rotary family focuses on Membership Recruitment & Retention. What better way to kick-start your membership efforts than attending the District Membership Seminar at North Shore Senior High. Registration starts at 8:00AM; Seminar 8:55AM - 1:00pm

Club Presidents are encouraged to personally lead a delegation of their club membership committee, along with President-elect, secretary, program chair and any other interested members. (Especially the "Newbees")

Our District Membership Chair, **Ibrahim "Abby" Abou-Awdi**, has developed an agenda of top speakers who will offer creative and innovative ideas to help your club meet its March 31, 2010 target. Take this opportunity to spend quality time with District leaders, your Asst Governor and your Area Membership Chair.

Location: North Shore Senior High, 353 North Castlegory, Houston, TX 77049

Ibrahim "Abby" Abou-Awdi, District Membership Chair
aawdi@galenaparkisd.com
(281) 850-0072

"Without Membership, Nothing Else Works"!!!

To: Jon R. McKinnie, Rotary Club of Space Center

I would like to ask for your assistance to promote our GSE team trip to India (Jan 31 - Mar 2, 2010) at your next club meeting. Additional information and applications are available on the district website, www.spacecenterrotary.org

NEEDED. Rotarian to lead our GSE team to India in Feb. Be part of one of the most fun and rewarding experiences in Rotary. Lead District 5890's GSE team to India in Feb. Applications due by July 22.

Thanks for your assistance,

Nick Giannone

GSE Co-Chair

P.O. Box 1497

Lake Jackson, TX 77566

979-299-5923 (Cell/Work)

HYDROCARBON
RESOURCE
RECOVERY
Scott Rainey

JSC FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION
Mike Brown

J. PAMELA
PHOTOGRAPHY
Pam Culpepper

KIRCHOFF
PETERSON CO.
Don Kirchoff

**L. D. BOWLES
ASSOCIATES**

Lamar Bowles

**LAS COLINAS
CUSTOM
INTEIORS**

Rae DeCastro

**LEXUS OF
CLEAR LAKE**

Joey Dupuis

**EARL
&
TERRILEE
MAUDLIN**



Patrice Sutherland, our newest member, was inducted July 6 into Space Center Rotary Club. Patrice is full of excitement and brings a wealth of experience to our club.

Be sure to take time to introduce yourself to Patrice and make her feel welcome to the Family of Rotary.

Patrice was sponsored by Jack Bacon.

Scott Rainey, as always, makes a rousing pitch for sponsorship for this year's Shrim-poree.

Scott has already raised over \$20,000 in sponsorship support, including an additional \$3,000 at Monday's meeting. But there is till a long way to go to reach our goals for this year.

So, please, consider supporting our out-standing community projects again this year. And if you have never been a sponsor, now is the time of year to step forward and com-mit.



**MAUI WOWI
Shelley Smith**

MERRILL LYNCH

**Jerry & Bill
Smith**

**MRI
TECHNOLOGIES**

Tim Kropp

**PROSPERITY
BANK**

Mark Humphrey

Not Just a Golf bag...



Have you ever had to pack all your belongings together? Maybe when you started college or moved to a new house? If you have, you know that it can take time because all your possessions carry a memory, a feeling. When you find something you haven't seen for a long time, it has a tendency to carry you back to the place you got it from or remind you of a lost friend who once gave it to you. This is the story of a possession that will always take me on such a journey, even when the possession itself is no longer with me.

The summer of 2009 is finally here and while all my school mates are talking about their to-be summer adventures, my big exchange year adventure is about to end. It started last summer when I was home in Sweden. With excitement I packed all my things together. It was hard to decide what would be important and useful. My luggage space was limited, but one thing stood at attention by the door ready to leave with me, my golf bag. There was no doubt that it was coming with me to my temporary new home, America. It would be my silent companion through a year of friendship, exploring, and discovery of a different piece of myself.

I won my bag in the prestigious Varberg Open golf tournament a couple of years ago, and its blue cover with orange accessories made it stand out of the bunch of bags outside my home clubhouse in Sweden. I loved my bag not only for its extraordinary style but because I was proud of it, proud of being a winner. The bag was a reason for me to brag about myself without sounding too self-assured. Like the blue, red and green hat symbolizes Bob Marley, I had my bag, and people from my club could spot my bright blue bag and know that that was me out there playing.

When I look at the blue bag it brings me back. When I first got here to this new land it was only us. We stuck together before I adjusted. And if I had a tough time, I swung my bag over my shoulder and marched out to the course for some one-on-one time with myself. This habit changed. When I settled and started to mature with my new surroundings, I didn't need the bags healing powers as often. All the new loving people I met took over its place and the bag didn't have that kind of use anymore. With these changes the bright colors also started to fade and the orange accessories lightened so that they were barely noticeable anymore. My companion became less and less essential to me.

One day in October, as a stranger, I played for my new golf team, the Clear Creek team, in an important high school tournament at April Sound. I was keyed up and nervous. I knew that this was the finale for my bag and though nobody else had heard about its victorious background, it helped me. Somehow I had that same feeling of pride that I had had when I won the bag back home. I think it was a different kind of pride, a pride of getting to know myself and what I was capable of doing. Finding myself in a new society I didn't know existed before I arrived here, I was beginning to belong. When the final round of golf was over, that day, my bag couldn't stand the pressure, and its legs broke. I didn't feel remorse; its days were simply over. I was now living a different life and ready to find a new bag to share it with.

It wasn't hard to pick out a replacement for my old bag. I just looked at the new me, a part of the Clear Creek Wildcats Girls Golf team and that was the kind of bag I wanted. I had some waiting time when I didn't have any bag at all. The new one was ordered, but I was empty handed, waiting, anticipating until it arrived. When it finally came, my Wildcat bag shocked me with its perfection. It is maroon with a big roaring Wildcat facing the front. On its side pocket, Sofia Berglund is scattered in with elegant and cursive lettering. All the girls on the team had one, and I was one of them now. I even put some maroon and white ribbons on its pocket zippers to prop up the team spirit. When you spot me and my bag out on the golf course now, the comment is not, "Who is that?" Instead it's, "That girl plays for Creek." And that always makes me grin.

"My new bag is not as fancy as the old one. There are not as many well placed pockets or a stitched on umbrella holder, but I ask myself, "What is the basic idea for a golf bag?"

" Can it carry my clubs?"

Yes, perfectly fine."

"Is it waterproof?"

"At least as good as any other bag. As long as you can stand to play golf in rain, it will stay dry."

"Can I carry it?"

"Easily, because of its simplicity, it is light as a feather. I can walk far longer with this bag than with my old one."

"Does it have a stand so I can put it down without it falling over?"

"Yes, and it stands so steady I don't think even a Texas tornado could make it tremble." In conclusion my bag has all the physical acquirements. It also has that little extra that I would call the Texas bag quality.

Time has flown this year in USA, and I am almost done packing again, this time for my journey back to Sweden. I give my old useless bag a last moment. I put my hand down in its heart, a small velvet covered pocket. Even though the bag is all worn out, this pocket feels exactly the way it did when I first held the bag, it's extremely soft. This pocket is well protected by the rest of the bag, and I remember I used to put dear things in there, my phone, keys, a good luck charmed stone I once found playing golf a long time ago. I can feel that the stone is still in there. I had forgotten about it. Maybe I should bring my bag back just in case... No, its time has passed, and I am moving back and moving on with my new bag. As they say, "People change." I sure did and I'm not changing back because I'm going back home. The new me is even better.

I'll make sure I have my Creek bag with me though. The maroon color is still clear and even if I wouldn't call the bag new anymore, it looks first-class. It did a pretty good job remaining fresh during its eight months of existence in the dreaded Texas sun and humidity. I always thought the bag beamed when the sunrays lit it up.

There is one new thing added to the bag. It is attached with a purple string around the neck and is dangling on the side of my bag, a six inches long plastic dinosaur. The creature is a silly gift given to me from one of my team mates. She told me that whenever I don't play my best and I start to feel down, I should just throw an eye on the dinosaur and that will make me happy again. My dinosaur is smiling and when I look at it, it does help a lot. I can't help it. I always start to grin when I see that silly little dino.

I know that I will bring a part of this place with me when I leave. All the people I met have had a huge impact on me and I can't even describe how important they still will be when I am at home, and they aren't around anymore. I don't know if you can call it home sickness when you are longing for a place that isn't your home, but that is the feeling I'll have for this place called Texas. I have never been good at farewells, and I haven't yet figured out a way to express how thankful I am that I had the chance to experience this amazing year. As I said, things bring you back and when I am at home feeling gloomy I'll just look at my dinosaur or my roaring wildcat and that will make me happy again.

Sofia Berlund

Ed Note:

Sofia Berlund, a Swedish Youth Exchange Student sponsored by Space Center Rotary Club, has recently departed for her home in Sweden. She has touched the hearts of so many - students, athletes, adults and every Rotarian. We wish her well in her future endeavors and hope she knows that she carries a piece of our hearts also.