



SPACE CENTER ROTARY -

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Tom Wier

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

If you have been reading these brief comments, you may have gotten the impression that I am writing them to honor people. Some have been honored, but there is more moral to this tale. Those people honored themselves-- by making a difference. I am merely using their experiences to illustrate what a difference an individual, you for example, can make to our club and to our community.

Consider how some of our great projects arose and progressed. Just a few weeks ago you heard about our Rotary National Award for Space Achievement, a MAJOR annual event the fifth celebration of which will be held this February 28. How did such an impressive thing get started? Like all great things it started when someone had an idea. In this case it was our Owen Morris, who suggested it to then club president Charles Hartman. They kept talking to clarify the concept and to identify members who might make the plan go. Following the good response from those asked, many meetings of an ad hoc committee were held to define what action to ask the Board of Directors to take, all the while being determined that the project had to be absolutely first class. Guidance from the Houston Club's experience in handling the Lombardi Award led to the formation of a separate incorporated foundation. The committee succeeded in forming an outstanding Advisory Board with representation from all around the United States, including aerospace executives, astronauts, high level politicians and military personnel. With a well worked out plan but with no money, it was time to go to the club's board for approval and a little seed money. Your board advanced some money and the project was under way, with still more big work to be done, of course. What a success it has been!

Lots of shoulders pushed that Rotary wheel on this project: Ron Blilie, Lamar Bowles, Sam Boyd, Floyd Boze, Sam Calanni, Clay Fulcher, John Francis, Larry Griffin, Dave Hamblin, Charles Hardwick, Eddie Harris, Charles Hartman, Chuck Jacobson, Al Jowid, Don Kirk, Jack Lister, Owen Morris, Hal Neely, Bob Mitchell, Don Robison, Billy Smith, John Watson and Bob Wren -- to name only the present and past committee members -- (and I pray it is without oversight!)

They in turn influenced many others. The difference they made is showing.