

Springoree – a time to celebrate

By MARY ALYS CHERRY

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THURSDAY's Springoree couldn't have come at a better time for Space Center Rotary members, who were ready to celebrate after learning they had taken District Club of the Year honors.

And, party down they did, toasting President *Mike Hernandez* and President-elect *Jon McKinnie*, who was chosen Rotarian of the Year from among some 60 Rotary clubs, and all those who worked so hard all year on an array of community projects.

Early arrivals at Bailey's American Grille in Seabrook included former Seabrook Mayor *Robin Riley* and his wife, *Gloria*; *Shari* and Lockheed Martin Vice President *John Wilkins*; *Renee* and retired CCISD Superintendent *John Wilson*; attorneys *Bill Lowes* and *Billy Ray Smith* and their wives, *Susan* and *Jayme*; and Merrill Lynch VP *Jerry Smith* and his wife, *Nancy*.

Quickly followed into Bailey's event room by *Dr. Vissett Sun* and his wife, *Adrienne*; *Dr. Ted Cummings* and his wife, *Leslie*; Putt-Putt Funhouse owners *Carol* and *Jim Saxe*, SAIC Associate VP *Anita Fogtman*, and energy trader *Scott Rainey* and his wife, *Martha*, after being welcomed by *Julie* and *Brad Bailey* and Springoree Chairman *Steve Owens* and his wife, *Keri*.

Even had a couple judges to keep order – Judge *Rafael Lugo* and his wife, *Sonja*, and Judge *Louie Ditta*, who conducted the live auction.

Some of the others signing in with *Laura Godwin*, who came with her husband, *Wes*, and *Bonnie Fitzpatrick*, were *Karen* and *Gary Johnson*, *Art* and *Renate Wood*, *Lamar Bowles* and *Terry Frank*, *Ina* and *Roger Donnelly*, *Art* and *Linda Oswald*, *Andrea* and *David Coney*, *Gene* and *Donna Tromblee*, *Beth* and *Mike Dennard*, *Olive Murphy Riker*, *Debby McBride* and *Gaye* and *Alan Wylie*.

First stop for many was the Connoisseur Club, hosted by *Rosie* and *Mike Hesse* so guests could sample fine wines.

Bill and *Suzi Howe* had Rotary District Gov. *Rhonda Kennedy* as their guest and *Mike* and *Tery Hernandez* arrived with their son and daughter-in-law, *Jorge* and *Rose Hernandez*, and *Pat* and *Wendell Wilson*.

Others enjoying a delightful filet mignon dinner included *Mike* and *Terry Divine*, *John* and *Madeline Nugent*, *Sharon* and *Johnny White*, *Joan* and *Bill Geissler*, *Wayne* and *Nanci Rutledge*, *Micki Czarnik*, *Wayne* and *Marilyn Musial* and *Don Kirchoff* and his wife, *Joyce Peterson*; plus, *Earl* and *Terrilee Mauldin*, who were \$10,000 sponsors.

When Judge *Ditta* took the stage, things got lively with *Wayne* and *Marilyn Musial* winning a week's stay in Cozumel with their \$2,200 bid, *John* and *Shari Wilkins* capturing Astros tickets with their \$1,300 bid; and *Bonnie Fitzpatrick* snaring a lovely fur coat for her \$1,600 bid. Phoenix Oil owner *Scott Bosard* won two top prizes – a dining experience for eight at Villa Juliana donated by *Mike* and *Rosie Hesse* that went for \$5,500 and a catered dinner for 10 donated by *ARI Construction*, *Grand Events Catering* and *CIS-Bay Area's Peter Wuenschel*, that fetched another \$1,000.

Some of the other winning bidders were *Suzi Howe*, a rib dinner for 30 at the Texas Roadhouse; *Billy Ray Smith*, a Remington shotgun; *Mike* and *Tery Hernandez*, a wine dinner for 10 at

Bailey's.

Profits from the fundraiser will be used for the club's many philanthropic endeavors in the Bay Area community.



Bonnie Fitzpatrice, left, and Laura Godwin enjoy dinner at the Space Center Rotary Springoree at Bailey's American Grille in Seabrook.



Adrienne and Dr. Vissett Sun, left, are happy to see Scott Rainey and his wife, Martha Bowles, as they all arrive at the Space Center Rotary Springoree at Bailey's American Grille in Seabrook.



Springoree Chairman Steve Owens, right, and his wife, Keri, welcome Judge Louie Ditta to the Space Center Rotary benefit.



Rotarians Mike Hess and Brad Bailey and their wives, Rosie and Julie, from left, standing, stop to visit with Carol and Jim Saxe during Rotary Springoree last week at Bailey's American Grille in Seabrook.