



**Summary History  
for  
The Rotary Club of Space Center (Houston), Texas, and U.S.A.  
Rotary International District 5890 (589)  
Club 2010  
Chartered August 6, 1964**

**Jon R. McKinnie, President**

The year was one of the most outstanding years in the 46 year history of the Club. Winner of three Rotary International Presidential Citations and Rotary International District 5890 Mega Club of Year Award were among the many accomplishments. The Club of Year award was an unprecedented accomplishment since it was also won by the Club last year. In addition, the Club returned \$289,000 back to the local and global communities and achieved nation-wide recognition with the TV program, ABC's Extreme Makeover – Home Edition for its involvement in building of the well deserving Beach Family Home in Kemah, Texas and essentially paying off the home mortgage. The City of Houston proclaimed June 28, 2010 as Jon R. McKinnie Day stating "On June 28, 2010, Rotary Club of Space Center will honor Jon. R. McKinnie in recognition of his community spirit, and involvement in local, state, and national civic activities. Jon R. McKinnie's honors include "Outstanding Young Business Leaders to Watch" in America, and "Rotarian of the Year" for Arkansas (2005) and Houston (2009) among many others."

The Club continued to meet at Bay Oaks Country Club Houston, Texas each Monday at noon. Guest speakers provided a variety of interesting programs with several of the time slots used for club activities such as Club Assemblies and fund raiser updates. Club meetings began in the traditional manner of singing a song, reciting the Pledge of Alliance to the US Flag and the Four-Way Test, a prayer, and acknowledging the guests. Golf outings and Club fellowships, held about twice a month, provided additional opportunities for fellowship for the Club members and invited guests. President McKinnie also introduced some new activities to facilitate more interaction between the members and guests, and provide more general information. These were: opened the Club meeting with a "greet our guests and fellow Rotarians" where Club members move about the room shaking hands and speaking to individuals; implemented a "Secret Handshaker" who had \$5 to award to some lucky member; implemented a 50/50 weekly raffle managed and operated by the Red Badgers to fund their local community service project; continued the tradition of "the Rotary International Foundation Message of the Week", the "Membership Moment" and a "Committee Short Report" for the purpose of keeping members informed; and closed the meeting with a "good thought for the week".

February 8, 2010 was proclaimed "Floyd Boze Day" with a Proclamation from Houston City Councilman, Mike Sullivan to Club member, Floyd D. Boze. He also received a Texas State Legislative Proclamation from State Representative John Davis at the May 3 Club meeting. Mr. Boze had a perfect attendance of 58 years and was the District 589 Governor in 1981-82.

Over \$289,000 was raised for service projects. The Rotary Foundation, and The Space Center Rotary Club Endowment Foundation bringing the total donations since 1964 estimated to be \$1,394,567. Particularly noteworthy was the donation to the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Galveston and Houston which consisted of training and recreational equipment totaling \$11,000.

The Board of Directors met twelve times in regular session and seven times in special meetings. Twenty one new members were added to the membership and two lost, one due to job transfer and one moved from active to honorary. This resulted in a net gain of 19 members (17%), and a membership from 112 to 131 plus 11 honorary members, which was unheard in a large club. The Membership Manual was revised to incorporate procedures and information which resulted in a 3 week turnaround from proposal of new member to induction, improved new member orientations, formalized new member induction event, and increased participation of members in bringing guests and new potential members to the club meetings.

There were 34 color issues of the Club's newsletters, Blastoff, out of a possible 43. The newsletters were multi paged and contained a variety of interesting items such as human interest stories about the Club's members; future programs; make-up opportunities; fund raisers, Shrimporee and Springoree, information including pictures and list of the associated sponsors; general information about the Club, District 5890, and Rotary International; and write-ups about the weekly programs including pictures.

The 36th Shrimporee, with the theme of "The Future of Children is in Our Hands", was held on October 17th at the Clear Lake Park, in Seabrook, Texas. More than 1,800 meal plates were served and over \$76,000 net was raised by the live auction, silent auction, raffle, and meals. Springoree 2010 (the tenth year for a major fund raiser to be held in addition to the Shrimporee) was a fantastic success! About 140 Rotarians and friends gathered at Bailey's American Grille, 2320 NASA Parkway, Seabrook, Texas, on May 20, 2010. The event netted over \$20,000 from the live auction, silent auction, raffle tickets and the Connoisseur Club.

The popular TV ABC show, "Extreme Makeover Home Edition" kicked off its latest new home makeover in Kemah, on January 7, when Ty Pennington, popular host for Extreme Makeover - Home Edition screamed into his bull horn, "Good Morning Beach Family". The handover of the keys of the old home took place and a whirlwind of activities started, culminating on January 14 with Ty again leading a chorus of "Move That Bus". In the course of 7 days, over 1,100 volunteers worked 24 hours a day to tear down the Hurricane Ike damaged home and build their new home, the largest home ever constructed in Extreme Makeover history. President McKinnie saw a great opportunity for Rotary to be involved and jumped in "head first"; he noted "This once in a lifetime project is the perfect opportunity for us to give back to those less fortunate and to share our Rotary story on a national stage". Rotarians across the greater Houston District 5890 had an integral part, supplying material, supplies, food, labor totaling over \$50,000, plus financial support. Club member and Vice President of Lewis Jewelers, Slade Lewis, let the effort to raise money to pay off the Beach's home mortgage.

There were extensive publicity concerning the Club's activities and projects with approximately 15 publications in the local and surrounding papers, and at least one in the Houston Chronicle, and 5 in District 5890 newsletter. Also the Club received local and national TV media coverage with ABC regarding the Beach Family Extreme Makeover Project. Space Center Rotary Club was noted in the 2 hour special that aired on April 4, 2010 as collecting over \$100,000 for the Beach Family to be applied toward their home mortgage. Since the program on TV, \$139,000 has been raised with about \$3000 remaining on the Beach's mortgage as of June 21, 2010.

The Club had a unique opportunity to sponsor a Leadership Camp for four high schools within the Clear Creek Independent School District School System in September. Several hundred outstanding 11th and 12th grade high school students gathered at Clear Lake Recreation Center to learn more about community service through Interact and Rotary. Many signed up to work the annual fundraiser, Shrimporee

A Rotaract Club at University of Houston, Clear Lake (UHCL) and the Interact Clubs in the Clear Creek Independent School District were very active during the year. Dr. Ted Cummings, Dean School of Business and Public Administration, at University of Houston at Clear Lake was presented a Presidential Citation by District 5890 Assistant Governor Chris Schneider at the June 14 Club meeting from the President of Rotary International for the outstanding work he had done with the Rotaract program. Likewise, Clear Creek Independent School District Superintendent, Dr. Greg Smith, was presented a Presidential Citation by District 5890 Assistant Governor Chris Schneider at the June 14 Club meeting from the President of Rotary International for the outstanding work he had done with the Interact program.

The Rotary Clubs of Space Center, League City, and Seabrook; and the Clear Creek Independent School District School (CCISD) hosted the second Rotary/CCISD Teacher of The Year Awards on May 25th at the South Shore Harbor Resort and Conference Center. Karen Hearn was the Elementary Teacher of the Year and Erika Bondy, the Secondary Teacher of the Year. The other four finalists were: Maria Scardasis-Wyatt, Kristina Digman, Pat Jones, and Michael Houston. This was the 20th year for the Excellence in Education Program.

"In Recognition of Your Dedication and Commitment to the Fire fighting Profession" was the heading on the awards for six outstanding fire fighters recognized on June 7 at the regular Club meeting. The Fire Fighter of the Year Award went to Edward Bridges. The other five finalists were Robert Herbert, Dan Reynolds, Mark Head, Kelly Head, Edward Bridges, and Matt Roper. This was the 18th year for the program.

The Club hosted the Youth Exchange incoming and outgoing students, along with their family, friends and sponsors at the August 17 meeting. Sirida Sombatto (Jen) from Thailand and Leonardo Briones from Ecuador were inbound international exchange students. Both made a presentation about their respective homeland in the March 1 Club meeting. The Club has actively participated in the International Youth Exchange for 25 years.

Alex Hall, Ambassadorial Scholar, received The Rotary Foundation Alumni pin from Bill Barmore, District 5890 Ambassadorial Scholar Chair on November 23.

Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent of the Clear Creek Independent School District, presented scholarships to six high school seniors based on Scholastic Achievement. The winners were Allyson Brinton, Kathryn Hageman, Lisa Nicholson, Reid Scofield, Brian Bloomfield, and Alex Judd. In addition, a scholarship was presented to Cole Heidman, winner of the Drug Awareness Essay. This was the 22nd year for the Drug Awareness Essay Program.

The Club had the honor of being the first Rotary Club in District 5890 to host the incoming German Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team on April 12 through April 16. The team was headed by Team Leader Helmut Munstermann with team members Ramona Kiesel, Tino Jentsch, Cindy Altkrueger, Toni Kodantke, and Marion Engelhardt. Hilmar Zeissig and his wife, Rose, hosted the reception for the team, district leaders, the former German Consulate General, and Space Center Rotarians at their town house. In May a Japanese GSE team visited the Club and exchanged banners.

The World Health committee had no patients this year but was planning for the next one. Mike Hernandez was in contact with a Mexico club for patient identification awaiting confirmation from Dr. Fustok as to which hospital can accommodate medical requirements for the patient identified.

Over 20 Club members visited 4 local area nursing homes the day before Valentine's Day distributing "roses (400) of love" and spending time with the resident senior citizens. Club volunteers completed a 4 week community service project at Interfaith Christian Ministries in July. Activities included re-stripping the parking lot, painting offices on Hwy 270, and stocking the food pantry.

The Club added 7 Paul Harris Fellows bringing the total to 344 since the first recorded Paul Harris Fellow in 1973 and gave \$23,809 to The Rotary Foundation resulting in a total of \$ 387,616 since 1964. There were 4 Paul Harris Society Members, 57 sustaining members, and 17 Benefactors. The Club members also gave \$5.080 to Polio Plus.

Club members who not only contributed to the Club's activities, but participated in District positions were: President Jon McKinnie, Director of Technology and District Web Master; Past District Governor Suzi Howe, Director of District Rotary Foundation (DRFC); Alan Wylie, Youth Exchange Director; Stan Galanski, Water Resource Director; Mike Dennard, Group Study Exchange Committee; Courtney Lindberg, Earth Day Chair; and Hilmar Zeissig, District 5890 International GSE Advisor.

OH!! What a weekend! was the introduction of President McKinnie's words about the District 5890 Conference held April 22 - 24, 2010 at the Houston Hyatt Regency Houston, Texas. President McKinnie received the Mega Club of Year Award and Stan Galanski received the very prestigious "Service Above Self award, which was given to only 150 Rotarians worldwide by Rotary International.

Club Director Rae DeCastro and her husband Howard attended the 101th Rotary International Convention held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada June 20-23, 2010.

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation presented William H. Gerstenmaier, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Operations with the 2010 National Space Trophy at the 24th annual gala held April 30 2010 at the Houston Hyatt Regency Houston, Texas. An annual event with over 850 in attendance; the "Who's Who" of the Space Industry worldwide.

President McKinnie closed the year giving out awards, certificates of appreciate, and 5 Paul Harris Fellows.

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President McKinnie's closing remarks to the Club members,"...*Space Center Rotarians, during the past year, my deepest wishes have been answered in their fullest and come to a fitting end today. With my humblest appreciation, I have been truly, truly honored to have served you. Carl Schurtz said, "Ideals are like stars: you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the seafaring man on the ocean desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them, you reach your destiny". Ladies & Gentlemen, I found my destiny at Space Center Rotary Club and lived it to its fullest.*

*Thank you so very much."*

