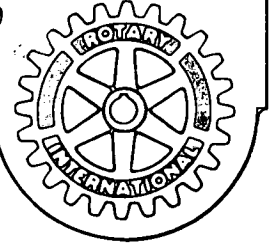


SPACE CENTER ROTARY CLUB BLASTOFF

The Space Center Rotary Club
meets on Mondays, 11:45 a.m.
at the Nassau Bay Hilton

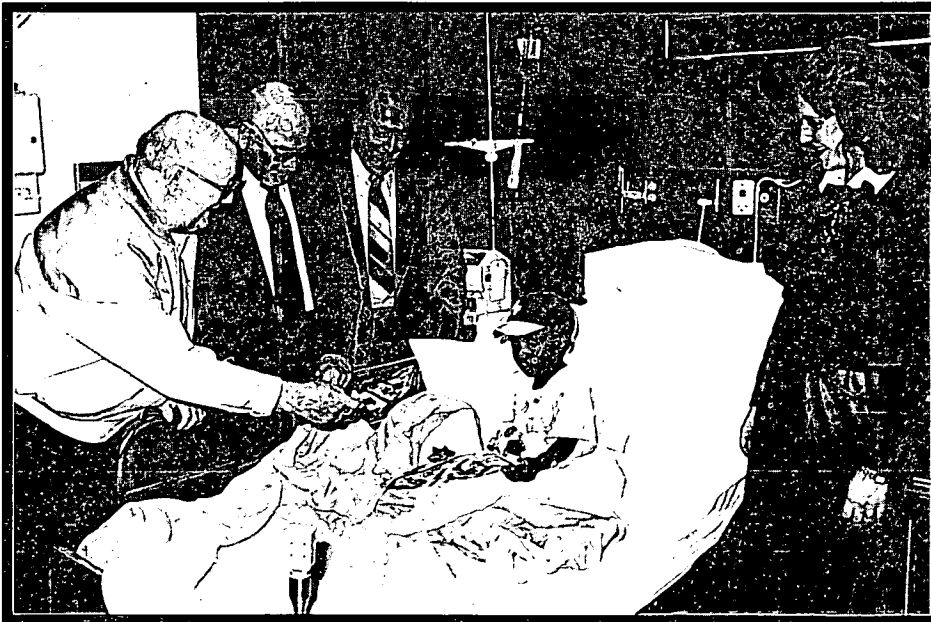
Rotary International District 589



Rotary International President, Paul V.C. Costa
District 589 Governor, Tyler Baker
Club President, Billy R. Smith
January 14, 1991

"Put life into Rotary - your life"

"Honor Rotary with Faith and Enthusiasm"



Santa's Elves

Woody Williams, George Fleming, Ed Geissler, Sandy Sausley, Vic Maria, Donnie Johnson and Vince Lipovsky visited St. Johns Hospital Monday, December 17. Vince photographed committee members distributing Christmas packages to children hospitalized on the Pediatric floor. The toys in the packages were donated by

committee members. The children ranged in ages between 10 months and six years and were thrilled to get some attention.

Thank You!

John Francis has been donating considerable time, effort, and resources to the Blastoff for the past many months. We on the Blastoff staff want to give John a thousand thanks for everything.

Events

JANUARY

Rotary Awareness Month

14 Regular Noon Meeting

17 Second Club Assembly

18 Pasadena South Country Western Musical

~~21 Regular Noon Meeting~~

28 Regular Noon Meeting

FEBRUARY -

World Understanding Month

04 Regular Noon Meeting

11 Regular Noon Meeting

18 No Meeting - Presidents' Day

22 Rodeo Night at the Astrodome

23 World Understanding and

Peace Day,

Rotary's 86th anniversary

25 Regular Noon Meeting

28 Fifth Annual Rotary National

Space Awards Banquet - Hyatt Regency

APRIL

18-20 District Conference - Galveston, San Luis Hotel

JUNE

1 - 5 Rotary International Convention - Mexico City, Mexico



Vic Gives the Slip to the Foun- dation?

Space Center Rotary Members, (from left to right) Billy Smith, President of Space Center Rotary, Ed Geissler, Chairman of the Handicapped Committee, and Vic Maria, have utilized their combined efforts to raise money to purchase a Slip Pump used in making ceramics. The members presented the Slip Pump to the Manager of The Hope Foundation for Retarded Children. Their gracious efforts symbolize the diligent work performed by the Space Center Rotary Members for the needy people of our area. Vic Maria has taken a special interest in this mission and has helped them in many ways.

Help! Baby Jlissa

The Handicapped Committee is also attempting to raise funds for Baby Jlissa, a baby born without arms or legs.

The estimated cost to fit her with synthetic appendages is approximately \$25,000. Any contributions to help her gain some independence would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Ed Geissler for more information.

Rotary is not Boring!

VIRGINIA BOOK DRIVE

A Rotary club, a department store and a book seller collaborated to help relieve tension and boredom for U. S.

service men and women stationed in the Persian Gulf. The Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia, initiated the project which resulted in shipment of at least 1,150 books to personnel involved in Operation Desert Shield.

African Journal

Cockroach Fire!

(The following is the third in a series of excerpts of a letter from Warner Marsh, our exchange student to Nairobi, Kenya. Warner visited our club a few months ago before he left for Kenya. He has expressed a desire to hear from anyone who can find the time to write. His address is: Warner Marsh, Nairobi Central YMCA, P. O. Box 63063, Nairobi, Kenya.)

Nairobi, Kenya
Tuesday, October 2, 1990

continued page 4

New Members



Space Center Rotary receives two new "blue" members: Sandy Sausley sponsored by Donnie Johnson and Larry Griffin sponsored by John Francis.

January Birthdays

Carl Bechtel	01/06
Lamar Bowles	01/05
Lonnie Clement	01/10
Collin Coker	01/02
John Gay	01/30
Kenneth Goedeke	01/29
Hugh Goff	01/04
Joseph Hang	01/12
H. Mervin Hughes	01/04
Jack Lister	01/02
Lynette Mason	01/08
Nancy Massey	01/01
Robert Mitchell	01/24
Siema Neumann	01/29
Lee Paschetag	01/26
Billy Ray Smith	01/18
John Watson	01/02

Commitee Report

Community Service

During the summer of 1990, the Clear Lake Presbyterian Church (CLPC) was collecting toiletries and hygienic items for delivery and distribution to the refugees detained by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service at camps along the Mexican border. As part of our Community Service activities, I contacted SCRC dentists Joe Shirley, Jim McNatt, and David Taylor, all of whom donated dental hygiene items. Also donating was Dickinson Rotarian, Mike Ray. David Taylor wrote a letter to his dentist associates asking them to contribute to this cause using his office as a drop-off point. We collected toothpaste, tooth brushes, dental floss, etc. which filled a box about 2'X2' and a large 20 lb. manilla sack. These items were delivered to CLPC who distributed them, along with other items they collected to the needy Hispanic de-

tainees held in the INS border camps.

Our congratulations to the Clear Lake Presbyterian Church who received an award for its humanitarian and peacemaking efforts towards Central America. Our gratitude and thanks to the SCRC dentists Joe Shirley, Jim McNatt and David Taylor and to the Dickinson dentist/rotarian Mike Ray.

The Nassau Bay Hilton Hotel has since donated a large box of hand soap, and I have received another box of sample toothpaste from Dr. Ray. Recipients of these items will be decided by committee. Hopefully, this will be a continuing effort.

Victor G. Maria
Space Center Rotary Club

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving"
-Oliver Wendell Holmes

"Wisdom is the abstract of the past, but beauty is the promise of the future."
-Oliver Wendell Holmes

Say Cheese

Don Carico has been an outstanding photographer for the Blastoff, and we want to thank him for all his efforts. Don is unable to continue as one of our photographers, therefore the Blastoff is in need for another photographer. If you have a camera or can borrow a camera and can point the camera, we Need You. Please contact Robin Riley or Maggie Adams, to play a significant part in your newsletter.



Eddie Harris, Space Center Rotary Club Treasurer, on the right with Pastor Mike Logan from the Son Light Mission.

The Space Center Rotary Club gave Christmas gifts for children and adults living at the Son Light Mission who would not have otherwise had a Christmas. The Son Light Mission is housing the homeless people in this area.

continued from page 2 **Coackroach Fire!**

The tarmac ended at Isiolo and the wild ride began. At first the unpaved road did not seem so bad, but as the high plains gave way to volcanic desert we met the six inch corrugations which would shake the teeth from our heads for the next week. However, it was also in these remote northern regions where our safari began. We saw ostrich, giraffe, zebra, dik-dik, gerenak, oryx, a variety of birds, and more camels than a Samburu herder could shake a stick at. On this terrible road we were ecstatic if we could maintain 25 mph. We managed to drag ourselves and the land rover into Marsabit just before dark. The "Cockroach" (so named for its distinctive custom design) was taking a severe beating on the washboard we were

driving on. An electric fire broke out in the dash wiring harness while Gordon was unpacking the vehicle. Luckily, the fire was quickly extinguished before too much damage was done. But as a result, we were forced to completely rewire the car next morning. One word about Land Rover design and repair: they make VW Bugs look complex.

Wednesday, October 3:

After a morning of furtive repair work we set out again towards our northern goal. By now we had become accustomed to the rough road, despite our troubles, we enjoyed the ride and the time passed quickly. We camped that night next to what is perhaps the only tree in the Chalbi desert of northern Kenya. Gordon carries with him the vegetables we bought in Marsabit to produce a moveable feast. This we ashed down with Tusker beer our foresight had provided. We sat back and basked in the full desert moon. In the U.S., it is difficult to imagine a place so remote. All horizons were clear. The only sign of life was the two crows who stood guard, listen to our stories and waiting patiently for our scraps.

Stay tune for Part 4 - "Yo-Yo Diplomacy"

"Our greatest glory consists, not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

-Oliver Goldsmith



SPACE CENTER ROTARY

P.O. Box 58862, Houston, TX 77258

Rotary International President: Paul V.C. Costa

District 589 Governor: Tyler Baker

Space Center Rotary Officers & Directors:

OFFICERS

- Billy R. Smith, President
- Jack R. Lister, President Elect
- Terry W. Hesson, Secretary
- Edwin R. Harris, Treasurer
- Victor G. Maria, Sergeant-at-Arms
- John T. Watson, Past President
- Floyd D. Boze, Past District Governor

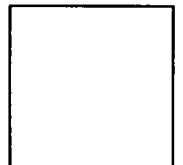
DIRECTORS

- David M. Cordell
- John J. Francis
- David C. Gochmour
- Joseph Hang
- Owen G. Morris
- David H. Owen
- Gerald P. Smith
- Carson Stephens
- David Taylor

Mike Dennard, Program Chairman

Robin Riley, Steve Bolton and Donnie Johnson: Blastoff Editors

Don Carico and Vince Lipovsky, Photographers



FIRST CLASS