

# THE BLASTOFF

SPACE CENTER ROTARY'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Rotary Club of Space Center • P. O. Box 58862  
Houston, TX. 77258 • [www.spacecenterrotary.org](http://www.spacecenterrotary.org)  
Chartered August 1964 • Rotary District 5890  
Meetings: Mondays at noon • Brentwood Inn  
1300 Nasa Parkway • Clear Lake, Texas  
Volume 42. No. 28 • March 13, 2006



## Food for thought...

One day two men went into the hospital after suffering similar heart attacks. One of the men grew depressed and irritable. His attitude was sour and he cursed his fate. The other man took it in stride. He kidded with everyone who came to visit him and refused to be brought down by his plight. The first man grew weak and frail. The other man left the hospital in good health and resumed his old life quickly. The way we face life has a lot to do with how good we feel about it. Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life!

## Agenda

- Luncheon Begins..... 11:45
- Call to Order..... 12:00
- Song..... Debby McBride
- Invocation..... TBD
- Pledge..... TBD
- Four-Way-Test..... TBD
- Introductions of Guests & Visiting Rotarians..... TBD
- Announcements..... 12:10
- Program..... 12:30  
Gideon Jones - Baytown Tunnel Removal
- Adjourn..... 1:00

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### GIDEON JONES P.E. REMOVAL OF THE BAYTOWN TUNNEL

Gideon Jones, P.E. is the Mechanical Engineer and owner of HVAC Enterprises, and is now working for S&J Diving Inc. which is owned by his son, Stanley Jones.

S&J Diving serves the Gulf Coast with diving services including underwater construction, inspections and salvage. Recent hurricanes have done much damage to offshore rigs and pipelines which he and his team are helping to repair. Inland jobs include dam and bridge inspection and underwater inspection of vessels. It was their privilege to be selected to provide the diving services for the removal of the Baytown Vehicular Tunnel.



This is Hilmar Zeissig making up a meeting at the Cosmopolitan Rotary Club of Amman, Jordan. He is exchanging flags with the President of the club.

### Excerpt from JB Fox's Quarterly Report:

President David Owens of Seabrook has proposed a joint project regarding relief of some of the East Texas and /or Mississippi areas ravished by Rita. We will be looking into these cooperative projects as well.

The three clubs, Seabrook, Harrisburg, and Space Center, Christmas party had a surplus of over five hundred dollars after all bills had been paid. Mutual agreement between the clubs resulted in donating the money to the Turning Point.

## PEEK AT NEXT WEEK

### SOUTH AFRICAN GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TEAM

#### Visit an E-Club

Rotarians may make-up missed meetings by visiting an Internet-based Rotary club. Check it out by going to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and click on "Club Locator." Then click on "Visit an E-Club." You can visit it just to find out what's going on in other clubs, too.



### Boots and Black Ties VIP Event

Mark your calendars! Our formal, spring fundraising event is scheduled for May 5th, at the Marker 1 Marina.

Individual tickets are \$100 and tables of 10 go for \$750. Price includes a Texas Roadhouse catered meal, beverages, participation in live and silent auctions, plus all the dancing you can stand. Tickets are limited, so contact Geoff Atwater to get your name on the list.



## SERVICE Above Self

### AREA MEETINGS & OTHER LOCATIONS

- Mondays @ 12:10 NIAGARA FALLS  
Four Points Sheraton  
Niagara Falls, New York
- Tuesdays @ Noon PEARLAND  
Golfcrest Country Club  
2501 Country Club Drive
- Tuesdays @ 12:10 LA PORTE  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
Broadway @ Ave G
- Tuesdays @ 7:15 pm MONACO  
Hotel Mirabeau  
Monaco
- Wednesdays @ 12:05 PASADENA S.  
Baywood Country Club  
5500 Genoa-Red Bluff
- Thursdays @ 7:00 am SEABROOK  
Lakewood Yacht Club  
2425 Nasa Road One
- Fridays @ noon PASADENA  
First United Methodist Church  
1062 Fairmont Parkway

### Happy Birthday to you.....

Nanci Rutledge	1-Mar
Owen Morris	3-Mar
Travis Vermeer	4-Mar
Wayne Young	5-Mar
JB Fox	9-Mar
Pam Culpepper	14-Mar
Tim Kropp	17-Mar
Roger Lyons	22-Mar

(If you haven't given your birthday to Tony or Sharon, please do so. Thanks!)



Let's have a great time!

**ROTARIANS...  
WARM UP YOUR ENGINES!  
April 8th**

**Gates Open at 5pm - Races start at 7pm  
Battleground Speedway  
in Highlands, Texas  
10625 FM 2100, Highlands, TX**

Take I-10 East to Crosby Linchburg (FM 2100), exit and go north 4 miles through downtown Highlands.

Cost per Ticket: **\$10** (\$8 of every adult ticket comes back to Rotary)

\$5 for ages 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under.

Coolers for beer only will be allowed in general stands. \$5 cover charge for coolers.

Maximum size: 12 pack

Make reservations with Charlie Thorp at [fcetca@houston.rr.com](mailto:fcetca@houston.rr.com) or call 713.861.9256

Mail checks made out to: Rotary District 5890 c/o Charlie Thorp 121 East 16th, Houston, TX 77008

THE AFORE MENTIONED FEE OF \$5.00 FOR DESSERT FOR OUR MEETINGS HAS BEEN RESCINDED. THE \$5.00 FEE INCLUDES ONLY TEA OR COFFEE.

Thanks to Earl Maudlin for purchasing two tables for the Boots and Black Ties Ball. The check was for \$1,500, taking advantage of buying a table for 10 for \$750 per table. Thanks for the leadership, Earl!

This Omega "moon watch" is valued at \$3,200. Travis Vermeer of Ben Bridge Jewelers at Baybrook Mall has donated this watch to be raffled off. Raffle tickets are twenty dollars each, or 6 tickets for one hundred dollars. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Winner will be drawn at the VIP Boots and Black Ties Ball on May 5th. Please make sure you thank Travis for his generous donation.

Here is the history on this extremely unique watch:

*Ben Bridge*  
JEWELERS SINCE 1910

On 1st March 1965, OMEGA's Speedmaster chronograph was "flight-qualified by NASA for all manned space missions" as the only wristwatch to have withstood all of the U.S. space agency's severe tests under conditions of zero gravity and magnetic fields, extreme shocks, vibrations and temperatures ranging from -18 to +93 degrees Celsius.

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In the same month, the watch was for the first time worn officially on board the Gemini 3 mission.



In April 1970, the OMEGA Speedmaster rescued the Apollo 13 mission from a potential disaster, earning OMEGA the "Snoopy Award", the highest distinction awarded by the NASA astronauts. In another historical event, the Speedmaster was worn on the wrists of both the American astronaut Tom Stafford and the Russian cosmonaut Alexei Leonov during the historic Apollo-Soyuz space rendezvous. This was the first time the cosmonauts also wore the OMEGA Speedmaster. Ever since, the Speedmaster has been the official chronograph of all Russian manned space missions.

The greatest moment in the Speedmaster's history was undoubtedly 20 July 1969 at 02:56 GMT, when it recorded man's first steps on the Moon's surface. The Apollo 11 mission was a milestone in history and the Speedmaster became the first watch (and the only watch since) to be worn on the Moon. With this unique accomplishment came a unique nickname: the Moon Watch.

### DITTY OF THE WEEK: Whistle a Happy Tune

Whenever I feel afraid  
I hold my head erect  
And whistle a happy tune  
So no one will suspect  
I'm Afraid.

While shivering in my shoes  
I strike a careless pose  
And whistle a happy tune  
And no one ever knows I'm afraid.

The result of this deception  
Is very strange to tell  
For when I fool the people I fear  
I fool myself as well!

I whistle a happy tune  
And ev'ry single time  
The happiness in the tune  
Convinces me that I'm not afraid.

#### PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Richard Meyer - 1 yr	Vissett Sun - 5 yrs
John Nugent - 1 yr	Dennis Dillon - 10 yrs
Joan Skellinger - 1 yr	Suzi Howe - 13 yrs
Hilmar Zeissig - 1 yr	David Taylor - 15 yrs
Raphael Lugo - 2 yrs	Vic Maria - 16 yrs
L. Jean Walker - 2 yrs	Billy Smith - 24 yrs
Debby McBride - 3 yrs	Bob Wren - 25 yrs

Wow! Congratulations to these dedicated members! To have so many years without an absence, truly shows Service Above Self.

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- Four Way Test of the Things We
- Think, Say or Do
- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to All Concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to All Concerned?



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 If you would like to have something men-  
 tioned in this newsletter, please let us know!

Photographer: Bob Mitchell



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