

# 100 Years OF SERVICE Rotary International

*"Make no little plans;  
they have no magic to stir men's blood ...  
Make big plans;  
aim high in hope and work."  
— Daniel Burnham*



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# Space Center Rotary dates back 40 years

By MARY ALYS CHERRY  
Citizen Staff

With approximately 150

members, Space Center Rotary of Clear Lake is one of the largest Rotary clubs in the Houston area and hosts one of

the Houston area's premier events — the Rotary National Space Award Dinner. Its history dates back 40

years to 1964 when Ellis Bareiss of Pasadena — acting at the behest of Rotary District Gov. Virgil P. Lee — visited the Clear Lake area to investigate the possibility of forming a Rotary Club. Less than three months later, Rotary International granted a charter to the Rotary Club of Space Center. The La Porte Rotary Club sponsored the Space Center Club and an application for a provisional club was submitted to Rotary International July 11, 1964 with 35 charter members listed.

The charter was presented to Space Center President Ivan E. Brown by District Gov. Edwin G. Bratcher during a dinner meeting at Houston Yacht Club on Sept. 28, 1964.

Besides Brown, other officers were Vice President J.A. Newborn Jr., Secretary-Treasurer Joe R. Stuts and Sergeant-At-Arms David L. Shaw.

Directors included William A. Parker, Richard Allen, Leroy Gordon Cooper Jr., Eddie H. Nettles, Paul K. Swackhamer and Colin Harrison.

Besides the officers and directors, charter members were Donald A. Ahlborn, Wayman Armstrong, Jack C. Ball, William Gerald Barber, Charles A. Berry, Wick J. Blanton, John B. Elder, Joseph H. Frost Jr., Martin Gracey, Bob J. Graham, Walter Kellen, Mike Kouchoucos, Vince Lipovsky, Frank G. Morgan Jr., Walter M. Pickett, Robert G. Runger, Bernard L. Sarahan, Harry P. Smith, Beverly E. Steadman, J. Boyd Taylor, Richard T. Tear, S.S. Tompkins, Ladislaus W. Warzecha, William H. Weston and Charles L. Whynot.

The new club met each Monday at 12:15 p.m. at the now shuttered Kings Inn on NASA Road I. The initiation fee was \$20 and annual dues were \$25. A club banner was designed by Martin Gracey in 1965 and adopted that same year. Later, astronaut Frank Borman flew it around the moon during the flight of Apollo 8.

A few years later, one former member described the club as a different kind of Rotary club than most, what with astronauts as members and an average age of 43, which is nine years younger than the average Rotarian world.

At least 95 percent had college degrees, which was 30 per-



Space Center President Vissett Sun, right, welcomes Rotary International President Glenn Estess to recent luncheon.

cent more than Rotarians generally at that time.

Honorary members have included astronauts Gordon Cooper, Frank Borman, James McDivitt, David Scott, Russell Schweickart, Jim Lovell and Buzz Aldrin and Johnson Space Center Director George Abbey.

Over the years, the club has had three of its members selected as district governors. Floyd Boze was the first, followed by Billy Weseman. The third will be Suzi Howe, who will become district governor next year.

The club's community service program began almost immediately as members began work to establish a public library in the Clear Lake area.

To celebrate its 10th anniversary in 1974, Space Center Rotary held a dinner at Lakewood Yacht Club with the late Dr. Alfred Neumann, chancellor of the University of Houston-Clear Lake as its speaker.

The club staged the first Shrimpporee and Auction in Galveston County Park in League City in 1973. Back then, it was called Shrimp Boil and Auction with Bay Area merchants donating auction items, as they still do today.

The fundraiser, now called the Shrimpporee, still serves thousands in Clear Lake Park with proceeds going to Bay Area charities. The Shrimpporee and attendant events raised more than \$70,000 last year. When a new Freeman Library opened in Clear Lake in 2004, Space

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## Shrimpporee a big Rotary fundraiser

One of the biggest Rotary fundraisers in the Bay Area is Space Center Rotary's annual Shrimpporee and Auction, which it hosts each September in Clear Lake Park. Founded in 1973, originally it was called the Shrimp Boil and Auction and was held in Galveston County Park in League City.

Last fall, the Shrimpporee and attendant events

— a golf tournament and Black Tie & Boots Ball — raised more than \$70,000 for the club's charitable causes. Part of the Shrimpporee proceeds have been used to fund a children's library at the new Freeman Memorial Library in Clear Lake, which was recently dedicated by Rotary International President Glenn Estess during his visit here.



Space Center Rotarians Mike Hernandez, Mike Dennard and Dr. Ted Cummings, from left, lend a hand at the club's annual Shrimpporee and Auction in Clear Lake Park.



Dick Hergert, Keith Huff and Mike Brown, from left, prepare fish for the fryer at Space Center Rotary's annual Shrimpporee and Auction, held each year in Clear Lake Park.



Chuck Jacobson, left, and Ken Gurry get ready to cook fish at Space Center Rotary's annual Shrimpporee and Auction at Clear Lake Park.

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## SEABROOK

Continued from page 4  
now 12 years old. We meet every Thursday at 7:15 a.m. in the ballroom of Lakewood

Yacht Club. We have over 50 members and have no trouble in getting programs. Membership in the

Seabrook Rotary Club is open to everyone in the Clear Lake area including Kemah and League City.



The E.A. Smith Family YMCA  
pays tribute to the  
**Space Center Rotary Club**  
for its continuous support of the  
families in the Clear Lake community.

# YMCA

of Greater Houston

The North Galveston County YMCA  
gratefully recognizes the  
**Rotary Club of League City**  
for its pacesetting gift to the  
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South Shore Wine & Food Festival is League City Rotary's big fundraiser.

## LEAGUE CITY

Continued from page 3  
Olympia, Brazil, Tidwell said.

"Carla is currently a junior at Clear Creek High School and is thoroughly enjoying her time in the United States while at the same time sharing a little of her culture and heritage with the club," she added.

With so many projects to support and fund, League City Rotarians are kept busy by a variety of fundraisers.

Currently, the club's major fundraiser is the South Shore Dockside Food and Wine Festival, held annually in October. The festival has become a community event requiring over 200 volunteers in addition to the Rotarians. A day-long event, the festival includes the opportunity to taste from over 40 different wines from around the world and sample food from at least a dozen local restaurants.

In addition to the food and wine tasting, there are live bands, cooking demonstrations,

various local artists and businesses, and a very competitive grape stomp that adds in the experience. Last year's attendance was an estimated 4,000 people; all having a great time in the name of charity.

Also last year, the Red Event was added as an evening of food, fun, and fundraising. Participants are asked to wear their best red clothing and includes a fashion show put on by local businesses. In addition, there is a live auction with packages that include everything from gift baskets, weekend getaways, to furs from Sakowitz.

During this Centennial year, the Rotary Club of League City plans on continued growth, continued service to the community, and continued fellowship and fun.

For further information on the Rotary Club of League City, interested individuals should call Monica Tidwell at 281-332-0271.

## SPACE

Continued from page 2

Center Rotary pledged \$15,000 for the Children's Library.

In 1985, when the late Charles Hartman was president, Space Center Rotary — at the suggestion of aerospace executive Owen Morris — established the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement to coordinate an annual awards event to recognize outstanding achievement in space and create greater public awareness of the benefits of space exploration.

The 2004 recipient was Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the lunar surface.

Each year, the black-tie dinner draws hundreds of space scientists from all over the country and has

become a national event.

The club also has brought burn victims — some badly deformed — from all over the world here for surgery performed at no cost and changing the lives of many forever.

The idea was conceived by honorary club member Dr. Abdel Fustok, who made arrangements with Christus St. John Hospital for use of its facilities for the surgeries while the club pays all travel expenses.

Space Center Rotary celebrated its 40th anniversary with a Black Tie & Boots Ball and topped off the year's festivities with a visit from Rotary International President Glenn Eitess.