



# The Spoke

July 13th, 2016



Rotarian Bob Lombardo, center with tie, with President Steve Slachta and Mayor Peter Simmons

after the unveiling of the clock. Bob got the idea for the Rotary Clock after seeing a similar clock while on an anniversary visit to Savannah. He spent several years getting together the partnership with the Noon Club and the City.

Now he says, "I hope sometime in the future I'll hear someone say, 'Lets meet downtown, do some shopping. We can meet at the clock at 11:30'".

The clock was dedicated to the citizens of Bonita Springs by the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Noon, and The City of Bonita Springs.

Thank you, Bob. Well done.

### **Last Week Meeting, Week 1**



President Steve Slachta presided. Steve told us that at Rotary Leadership Institute training he had been told about all the difficult problems he would have to deal with as president. Steve says, "I couldn't relate to that. We don't have any problems...I am honored to be your president."

Tom Briers presented the Invocation; Roger Brunswick led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Kenny King read the Four Way Test flawlessly.



New song leader Wayne Hemstead led the singing of *What a Wonderful World*.

Steve announced a new feature of each meeting will be a **“Rotary Minute”**. The first presenter was Sandy Hemstead on “why we sing.”



It seems that an early Rotary meeting the guest speaker was telling a story that had an “off color ending”. Harry Ruggles, the “fifth Rotarian”, knew the ending and began singing to cut off the speaker.

One result was the adoption of an unwritten rule that all meetings should be conducted in a manner that “a lady could attend without blushing”.

The other result was that Paul Harris reluctantly

agreed to include singing of popular tunes at meetings.

Tom Briers reported on efforts by him and son, Mike, that raised over \$28,000 for flood relief for victims in their home state of West Virginia.

Bobbie Bird says we had a great 4th of July celebration. “The Rotary Clock is going to be a centerpiece in our revitalized downtown...And thanks to those who came and helped or drank beer in the park during the fireworks and laser show.”

Steve recognized former club member Bob Lorenz who was his sponsor.

Substitute Sergeant-at-Arms Roger Brunswick welcomed guests. Dave Adamson introduced his son Drew, aged 9. Dave has brought each of his sons to meetings. He says, “It’s important to grow young people into business situations.”



## Growing Up in Bonita



Roger Brunswick introduced the program, "Growing up in Bonita". This was an informal, unrehearsed discussion with Don Thomson, Gary Murphy, and Frank Liles telling stories and commenting on photos.

Frank was born in Bonita. His mother's family was involved in lumbering and his father's in fruit growing. "There are no really tall, straight pine trees in Bonita Springs. My grandfather and his buddies cut down every good tree in SWFL."

Gary grew up and went to school in Miami. He came to Bonita every Friday with his family and spent the weekend fishing and hunting. He recalled wading to the camp after Hurricane Donna (1960) to find the refrigerator floating in the kitchen.

Don's parents moved to Naples in 1968. By 1970, they decided Naples was growing too fast so they moved to Bonita Beach where the family ran a motel, marina, and restaurant. When his dad needed a shrimp tank, he used a casket vault which later was used by Gary Murphy.

Gary says the river has changed a bit. There used to be big, big fish come up the Imperial River. They used to put out fishing lines at night tied to bicycle tubes anchored to cabbage palms. They often caught big catfish and jewfish. One morning they had a 14' saw fish on the line.

Frank said, "There wasn't a lot to do growing up here. Old 41 was about the the only paved road. At night, the kids would swim from the old railroad trestle. There were no locked doors in town. The first school bus took 38 kids from Bonita to Fort Myers High."

In the 60's and 70's there were only two roads, Old 41 and Bonita Beach Rd, to get in and out of Bonita. The the dog track was the entertainment place of SWFL so there was a monumental traffic jam at the beginning and end of the races.

Don had a brochure from the family business advertising beer on tap for .45 and bayside 2 bedroom, 1 bath units for \$80/week or \$13/day.

Frank said, "When people complain about the traffic in season, I tell them that when I was growing up in Bonita and you wanted anything for the car, house, or doctor you had to go to Naples or Fort Myers. There was just nothin' here at all. And now I'm glad all these people came here because I can go out my front door and get anything in about 15 minutes."

***This Week Program***

**Sharon Harrington  
Lee County, Supervisor of Elections**

**The Primary election is August 30, 2016**

Lee County, FL (June 23, 2016) The Lee County Supervisor of Elections Office has over 130,000 vote by mail requests for the August 30th Primary and more come in daily. Lee County will be just one of 67 Florida counties to generate a huge quantity of mail for the United States Postal Service (USPS) to deal with during this Presidential Election year.



# Adamson & Son drew the J to win \$5



**The 50/50 is \$1,493**

## ***Birthdays***

**Ira Hawk July 13**  
**Dawn Colecchio July 14**  
**Stephanie Kissinger July 14**  
**Rolando Rivera July 17**  
**Kenny King July 18**  
**Rex Sims Jul 19**

**Rotary Sings:**  
**In the Good Old Summertime**

In the good old summer time  
In the good old summer time  
Strolling through the shady lane  
With your baby mine.

You hold her hand, and she holds yours,  
And that's a very good sign,  
That she's your tootsey, wootsey  
In the good old summer time.

**This Morning's Invocation**

Good and gracious God, as we gather here today, we are grateful that we can be lifted out of ourselves and our private concerns to share with others in a fellowship of like minded people. May the good spirited banter between us, the fun of being together, and the awareness of a camaraderie in a common cause, enrich our lives.

Jolt us from lethargy about the world and our own community by a vivid awareness of the needs we can help to meet. We seek no glory for ourselves, only the good of the community and world we are privileged to serve.

We thank you for the physical food, and and social fellowship enjoyed here today. May some good ensue from this experience for ourselves and others. Amen.

**Rotary International  
President**

**John F. Germ**  
Rotary Club of Chattanooga, TN

**District 6960 Governor**

**Ladd Waldo**  
The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch

**Area 3 Assistant Governor**

**Sally Smith**  
The Rotary Club of Estero

**2016-2017 Club Officers**

President	Steven Slachta
President-Elect	Jon McLeod
Secretary	Claudie Delgado- Feeney
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III

**Members of the Board**

**Tom Briers, Steven Slachta, Jon  
McLeod, Claudie Delgado-Feeney**

**2014-2017**

**Frank Mazzeo, Peter O'Flinn,  
Susan Schmitt**

**2015-2018**

**Adam Botana, Joe Murgalo,  
Jon Shaw**

**2016-2019**

**Bob Lombardo, Kae Moore,  
Gary Price**

**Trustees of The Foundation of  
The Rotary Club of  
Bonita Springs**

**Jim Dati, President; Stephanie  
Kissinger, Secretary; Richard Garner,  
Treasurer; Jason Dolle, Sandy  
Hemstead, Ed Houck, Mark McCaw  
Trustees**



**Rotary Club of Bonita Springs**, chartered  
November 3, 1978. The Club may be  
contacted through its mailing address P.O.  
Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133. You  
can reach **The Spoke** through its email  
[BonitaSpoke@aol.com](mailto:BonitaSpoke@aol.com).  
**Scott Gerrish** issue editor.