



The Spoke

“A Historic Climb”

“Rotarians Climb Sydney Harbor Bridge and Break World Record”



RI reports that during Friday's world record-breaking Sydney Harbour bridge climb, Rotary members raised enough money to protect 240,000 kids from polio.

Despite the physically grueling four-hour trek up and down the bridge's storied steel arches, the 340 participants kept their good spirits and stood side-by-side waving 278 flags.

"When the helicopters were going around, you just felt like one great big nation," says Graeme Davies, district governor of the Rotary Club of Kincumber in Australia.

The massive turnout eclipsed Oprah Winfrey's world-record climb in 2011 when she summited the bridge alongside 315 of her most ardent fans. But for Rotary members, the record paled in comparison to the experience and the opportunity to take a step closer to ending polio forever. The event raised 110,000 Australian dollars (US\$102,300).

President-elect Sandy (currently representing our Club at the RI Convention in Sydney) and Wayne Hemstead also participated in Bridge Climb doing so in the evening to participate in VIVID, the Sydney Light Festival.

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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Bobbi presided. **Dale Timple** delivered the invocation; our speaker LTC Paul Garrah led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Ken King** the 4 Way Test. We all participated in a spirited version of "You're A Grand Old Flag."

Helping Build Dreams



As we all know, Habitat for Humanity unites the community with people in need to provide them the life-changing opportunity to purchase and

own a quality, affordable home. "The Dream Builder Club" recognizes the efforts of those who have taken on a leadership role in supporting Habitat's goals and mission. Our Club has enthusiastically supported Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties and in recognition of those efforts was awarded entry into "The Dream Builder Club." **President Bobbi** and **Mark Generales** proudly displayed the plaque representing our Club's achievement. Thanks to all who support this most Rotarian of initiatives.

Your Help Is Needed

Don Thomson reported that our local YMCA is in need of volunteer coaches for a variety of sports activities (volleyball, soccer, basketball). If you are interested and would like additional information see **Don, Gary Price**, or call Maribel at the Y.

Thanks...the Spoke Editorial and Production Teams breathed a sigh of relief upon learning of **Mark McCaw's** willingness to print the Spoke. Thank you Mark for your help and generosity.

Star Spangled 5K

Hard to believe but it is time to start thinking about and training for our Star Spangled 5k which takes place Thursday, July 4 at 7:30 am at Riverside Park.



The 5k is always a great and festive event. Part of Star Spangled Bonita, the atmosphere is fun and electric as runners and spectators alike eagerly wait for the "start." The race itself is enjoyable, the course always being well planned and built for speed. There are several ways to participate. You can register online on our Club website by clicking the "Rotary 5K Run" link. There are also a variety of Sponsor Opportunities available. See **Brian Olitsky** for more information.

Our Speaker



Last week we heard from Lieutenant Colonel Paul Garrah, (Ret) the Senior Army Junior ROTC Instructor at Naples High School. Lieutenant Colonel Garrah served on active duty for 22 years as an enlisted

soldier, a non-commissioned officer, and after his graduation from Officer Candidate School, a commissioned officer. We enjoyed a presentation which introduced us to JROTC and how it teaches students character education, achievement, wellness, leadership and diversity. Thanks Lieutenant Colonel Garrah for a great presentation and your service.

“From Boston to Key West”—The Ride *For A Lifetime*

Editor’s Note: The Spoke continues following Jon’s historic and noble ride with the following excerpts from his blog.



Day 3

Today we woke to dry, sunny and warm weather! We packed and said our goodbyes (Roman and Laura were FANTASTIC hosts!), and hit the road at about 8am. During our planning session the

night before, we made some route changes - adding some miles in the beginning by going north via Washington Crossing and cutting miles by planning to get a ride across a bridge unable to be crossed via bike. Net miles was still about 165. Western New Jersey and Eastern PA have some absolutely beautiful areas. Rolling hills, farms, horses and well maintained roadways highlighted the morning. Getting close to Philly (about 11:30), we ran in to a bunch of construction along Route 13, but traffic was surprisingly light.

Stopped at Arby's for a quick sandwich (where the girl working the counter insisted she get to take my picture in case I become famous) before heading down to the Philly Art Hall to see the famed steps that Sylvester Stallone ran up during Rocky. I lived outside Philly for about a year and never had the pleasure of visiting there. Great sight, plenty of tourists, but did manage to get a few pics (coming zoo this weekend when I get the photo gallery loaded).

Leaving the Art Hall, things got dicey!

Following the route took me right on to the freeway (again)! You would think I would have

learned by now that MapMyRide is about 95% accurate - when it is wrong, it does it in style!

Day 4

Woke up to wonderful weather in Baltimore - it was great to see a second day of sun and mild temps, making the ride all the more enjoyable.

About 2 miles from the Hyatt, the first flat of the trip happened - hit a pot hole and BAM! Out goes the tire... Fortunately, Carl was about 100 yards ahead of me, and turned around so we could repair the flat in short order. Although the weather seemed perfect, the one thing we couldn't see from the hotel was the wind direction. As I began to head south towards DC and VA, it soon became apparent the headwind would be a worthy adversary all day. Although a 7-10mph wind isn't too bad, stretched out over 6-8 hours it beats down on you :). Add to that the fact the MapMyRide had the elevation gain at about 2500' and I had surpassed that in the first 20 miles, I knew it would be a long day. Today was a beautiful ride, with many highlights and pictures of some great scenery, but it was by far one of the slowest 100-mile days I have ever had! Legs were absolutely burnt out, I slept like a rock, and woke up with legs of lead - but that's ok. The cause and the goal make it worth it!

This Sunday I will be caught up on all the days reviews (may even add some edits as well) and will put together a photo gallery of highlights of the trip so far. Until then... Surprise Yourself and do something you never thought you could (or would)



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Bonita Bay Club. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133, or its websites www.bonitaspringsrotary.org. and www.facebook.com/myrotary. **The Spoke**, the Club's official newsletter, is published weekly throughout the year (except when the Club is in recess.) You can reach the Spoke through its email riverchip12-spoke@yahoo.com



"The Fifty-Fifty"

This Week's Big Prize-**\$3617**

Last week Peter Zahner, sitting in for Don Manley, drew the Four of Hearts to win **\$500**. As always,,we're all winners as the "fifty-fifty" helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve.

"Rotary Sings" "Sing, Everyone, Sing!"

Sing, everyone, sing.
Sing, everyone, sing.
Let's get together in all kinds
of weather.
And sing everyone sing.
Smile, everyone, smile.
Smile, everyone, smile.
All of your troubles
Will vanish like bubbles.
So smile everyone smile.
Serve, everyone, serve.
Serve, everyone, serve.
Serving humanity, Rotary's
destiny.
Serve, everyone, serve.



It's A Birthday Celebration!

Dick Hamlin, June 2
Bob Gillette, June 4



Our Upcoming Speakers

**Melodie Turkish, Vice
President of
Development
ECHO International**

The 4-Way Test
Of the things we think, say or
do.

Is it the **TRUTH**?
Is its **FAIR** to all concerned?
Will it build **GOODWILL**
and **BETTER**
FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?

This Morning's Invocation

Dear God, Lord of Life and Source of Truth, at the outset of this month in which young people experience graduation, we offer our prayers in their behalf. May their commencement be to new levels of moral and ethical maturity and to increased social responsibility. Help them to appreciate their heritage in family and nation, and the price of preserving it. Help us by word and example to encourage our young people as they make transitions in life.

Bless now our food and fellowship and all aspects of club life and service. May all we do and say be in accord with Your will for us. In the name of Him who promised to be with and to bless those who serve. Amen.

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