



The Spoke

“Welcome Home Jon”

“Jon McLeod completes his noble ride in support of Gift of Life”



The above pictures express more than words ever could—determination and commitment to a cause that will impact the quality of life for generations. Congratulations Jon. Well done.

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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Bobbi presided. **Carl Schwing** delivered the invocation; **Fred Partin** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Drew-Montez Clark** the 4 Way Test. **Steve Krchniak** made a critically acclaimed return as our maestro leading us in "Sing Everyone Sing."

Star Spangled 5K



Brian Olitsky updated us on plans underway for this year's "Star Spangled 5K" which takes place Friday, July 4 at 7:30 am at Riverside Park. The 5k is always a great and festive event and 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 volunteer and Sponsor Opportunities available. See **Brian** for more information.

A Check Presentation Party

Len Eckert briefed us on the Bonita Blue Charitable Foundation's "Check Presentation Party" which will take place June 21 at Landsdowne Street, 24851 S. Tamiami Trail (Music begins at 2 pm with Bonita Blues Festivities at 4 pm.). This year the Music for Minors Foundation, the Music Therapy Program at the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida and the Bonita Springs Assistance Office will be receiving checks during the Party. Thanks to all who support and enjoy the Bonita Blues Festival whose efforts have resulted in the donation of approximately \$76,000 to local charities.

Last Week's Program

Last week we heard from Melodie Turish, Vice President of Development for ECHO International. A native of Luling Texas, Melodie graduated from Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business. She has extensive experience in



management, communications, and fundraising. At ECHO Melodie leads a media relations and philanthropy team dedicated to supporting that organization's goal of equipping people with the resources and skills to reduce hunger and improve the lives of the poor worldwide. Melodie's presentation offered insight into ECHO and the work and mission of its Global Demonstration Farm. Thanks Melodie for a great presentation.

Holidays Without Hunger

It was good seeing our friend Steve Popper of The Rotary Club of Naples. Steve was visiting to kick off and get the word out regarding the Second Annual Holidays Without Hunger Christmas



Eve food packing event to be held at the Harborside Event Center in Downtown Fort Myers. Last Christmas Eve the event organizers were hoping for 1200 participants. In fact, 2000 people helped pack 506,304 meals. Mark your calendars now—those who attended last year know the event was a wonderful and meaningful way to spend a Christmas Eve morning. You can log into Meals_of_Hope.org for information and details not only on the Christmas Eve event but all food packing events in our area. Thanks Steve for all you and Meals of Hope are doing to offer hope and alleviate hunger.

“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.



Days 5-9

Yep - I'm doing all these days at once!

Admittedly, I've found it exceedingly difficult to find the time to write about each day after riding 8-12 hours each day. Also - I've found I

don't recall everything (brain fried too) and it helps to have a few days to process everything...

Left Fredericksburg on Tuesday morning with the best weather you could ask for - sunny, mild, not to humid. Forecast called for late storms, so we got an early start. The hills were (supposedly) done for most of the rest of the trip and I immediately noticed the scenery was changing quickly. The city gave way to suburbs to rural setting in less than 5 miles. By far, this day was the most beautiful (through 9 days), as the combination of farms, country roads, hardwoods and small villages made me think of Upstate NY where I was born.

Carl and my parents made a stop at a winery along the way and the day was mainly event-free (with the exception of some very minor miscues with directions). As the day came to a close, I stopped at Bike Beat in Williamsburg at my uncle Mike's recommendation, to get some minor issues fixed. These guys were great and if you are ever in Williamsburg, pay them a visit. They know their stuff! I didn't miss a beat!

Williamsburg, VA to Williamston, NC was a looonnnnggg day.. between being extremely hot (first day this trip), the GPS sending me down more mountain bike paths that had to be re-routed, and major hot-foot-syndrome (where your feet burn from lack of circulation and nerve issues), I was feeling very beat-down. I often questioned my resolve to complete the trip - but pressed on through the pain and made it to the hotel.

Williamston to Delco, NC was a much better day. I rode my fastest solo century ever at 5hrs, 22min to start the day.

Delco to Charleston was the best day riding yet! Set a new PR for 100 miles, breaking the 5-hr mark (4:58:55) solo for the first time. This was one of the goals I had set with Brian Walton when we started woking together and needless to say I was thrilled to have set it 8 days into the ride!

South Carolina has some absolutely beautiful scenery - especially through the inland salt flats. It is awesome to see redfish tailing while out for a ride.

Tomorrow it's off to Jacksonville (150 miles or so). Each day new stories are being written about this journey that will all culminate with a generational impact on the children in El Salvador. Just think - by saving one child's life, you have perpetuated that family for generations to come. The child saved today may not be the next great teacher or leader or scientist. But their offspring may very well be. By helping to save these kids now, we are saving the lives of children yet to be born - think about that for a while :)



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- $\$3791$

Last week a delighted Bob Lombardo drew the King of Spades to win $\$500$.

As always,,we're all winners as the "fifty-fifty" helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve.

"Rotary Sings" "Meet Me in St. Louis"

Meet me in St. Louis, Louis,
Meet me at the Fair
Don't tell me the lights are
shining
Anyplace but there
We will dance the "Hoochie-
Koochie"
I will be your "Tootsie-
Wootsie"
If you will meet me in St.
Louis, Louis,
Meet me at the Fair.



It's A Birthday Celebration!

Jay Berube, June 15

Bill Oehler, June 16

Don Thomson, June 17



Our Upcoming Speakers

**Thomas I. Eastwood
"Spies and Espionage"**



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

Good and gracious God, as we enjoy this segment of our day in the context of our Club, help us to keep vividly in mind the principles of Rotarianism in our dealing with the world and in our relationships with others.

We intercede this day for all who suffer and for all who labor to alleviate suffering. Grant wisdom to those who govern, strength to all who serve, courage to all who strive for truth and integrity in all phases of life.

Bless our local efforts to serve others, to infuse our community with the proven principles we espouse, and to be standard bearers for truth in our spheres of influence. Bless and strengthen us through food and fellowship for the pursuit of our purposes as a Club. Amen.

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