



The Spoke



“6 Million Crosses Finish Line”

“The Fight to End Polio Continues”



Rotary General Secretary John Hewko and six RI staff members bicycled 104 miles in Tucson Arizona, USA, on Saturday, for the Miles to End Polio event, raising more than \$6 million for polio eradication.

The money raised by Rotary will receive a two-to-one match from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In addition to the team from Evanston, 100 Rotary member riders took part in the ride.

The fundraising ride is part of the annual El Tour de Tucson bike event in Tucson, Arizona, USA. The race attracts more than 9,000 cyclists a year, making it one of the top cycling events in the U.S. The Rotary team from Evanston was joined by Rotary members from Arizona's District 5500, and other members from around the world.

Hewko tweeted that he finished the race in 5 hours and 2 minutes.

"Really enjoyed riding in El Tour de Tucson along with 100 Rotarians and members of the Rotary International staff," Hewko added. "As a group we were able to raise over \$6 million for polio eradication which will help bring us even closer to the dream of a polio-free world. I am deeply moved by the generosity and passion of Rotarians around the world and Rotary staff." *(Courtesy of RI)*

Rotary International President

Gary C. K. Huang
Rotary Club of Tapei, Taiwan

District 6960 Governor
Pete Doragh

The Rotary Club of Fort Myers

Area 3 Assistant Governor
Rick Perry

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, Noon

2013-2014 Club Officers

President	Sandra Hemstead
President-Elect	Thomas B. Briers
Secretary	Gregory T. Holtz
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III
Assoc. Sgt.-at-Arms	William Banfield

Board of Directors

Bobbi Bird

Immediate Past President

2012-2015

Brian Olitsky Scott Anderson

Peter Zahner Jason Dolle

2013-2016

Sara McCallum Tom Briers

Gregory T. Holtz Steven Slachta

2014-2017

Bob Lombardo Frank Mazzeo

Peter O'Flinn Susan Schmitt

Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Nancy Ross, President; Richard Garner, Treasurer; Jim Dati, Secretary
Guy Quinn, Ray Faubion, Ed Houck, John Mathes, Trustees.

LASTWEEK'S MEETING

President Sandy presided. **Mark McCaw** delivered the invocation; **Jay Berube** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Gary Price** the 4 Way Test. Associate Musical Director **Bobbi Bird** directed a rousing version of "Over the River and Through the Woods."

Foundation Board Election

President Sandy announced the new slate of Foundation Board officers, namely **Nancy Ross**, President; **Jim Dati** Secretary; **Richard Garner**, Treasurer; and **Guy Quinn, Ray Faubion, John Mathes**, and **Ed Houck** Trustees. Congratulations to all.

A Memorable Dining Experience



You just never know...a quiet dining experience at the Biltmore Estate led **Nancy Ross** and past District 7750 President Mary Sieck to meet Rotary International President elect K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran and his wife Vanathy. (A Rotarian since 1974, Ravindran has served RI as treasurer; director; Foundation trustee; committee member, vice chair, and chair; task force member; RI training leader; and district governor.) Thanks for sharing a memento of an event that surely will have lasting "Rotarian" memories.

President Sandy announced that **Tom Briers** is chairing a Nominating Committee to fill vacancies on our Club Board. If you interested in serving your Club as a Board member, please see Tom. New Board members will elected at our December 10 Club meeting.

Scott Anderson

reported that trees are currently being delivered. If you have not already signed up for your shifts in the tent, please do so as soon as possible. And



special thanks to our sponsors—American House Senior Living Community; Smile Design, Bonita Community Health Center, Encompass Group, Spotlight Magazines, Bonita Estero Dental Group, The Law Offices of John D. Spear, BB&T Oswald Trippe and Company and Gulfshore Insurance.

Our Christmas Party

Our Club's Christmas Party will take place on December 12 at The Colony. If you have not already done so, please sign up now. Tickets are \$60 per person and you can pay by check or online. Plan on attending what shapes up to be a signature Holiday event.



Memorial Brick Program

Over the past few weeks, **Bob Lombardo** has advised us of the Veterans Memorial Walkway being constructed in Riverside Park. The deadline to submit your memorial brick application has arrived. If you are still interested in participating, please contact Bob immediately. Half of the proceeds from brick sales will

benefit the Bonita Springs Veterans Advisory Committee.



“Around The Club”

Bobbi Bird briefed us on the Wounded Warriors weekend which will take place Friday January 16 and Saturday January 17. Weekend festivities begin with a dinner on Friday and a benefit concert that evening, from 6-9 pm. The next day the Wounded Warriors team will play teams from the Lee County Sheriff’s Department and the Bonita Springs Fire Department. While there is no cost to attend, there are costs to prepare and produce these events. A program book is being prepared and the Committee is looking for sponsors. If you would like more information on how you can participate, please see Bobbi.

Our Speaker

Last week, we heard from Allen Weiss, MD President and CEO of NCH Healthcare System. While Dr.

Weiss offered insight on a variety of health care delivery issues during an interesting question and answer period, his primary goal was educating us about “Blue Zones.” He made the point that only about 25 percent of how long we live is dictated by genes and the other 75 percent by lifestyle.

The study of people living in “Blue Zones” allows us to convert items from their “longevity menu” into our everyday habits—thereby adding months or years to our lives. (To learn more Dr. Weiss invited us to visit the website www.bluezones.com.) Thank you Dr. Weiss for an engaging and interesting presentation.



“Our President’s December Message”

If you take a look at the Rotary calendar, it's easy to see where our priorities as an organization lie. The Rotary year begins in July; in August we mark Membership Month, in September we celebrate New Generations, October is for vocational service, and so on, turning our attention to different topics that are important in Rotary.

In Rotary, December is Family Month. Looking back on my years as a Rotarian, I have seen how important family is in Rotary – and how important Rotary can be to our families.

My wife, Corinna, chose to join Rotary just a few months ago, after many years as a Rotary spouse. All three of our children are also Rotarians. All of them joined their own club, in their own time. All of them have found unique interests in Rotary. As we have watched them find their own paths, we have been struck by how wonderful it is to have so many members of our family involved in Rotary service.



Rotary gives us something good that we can all do together. With Rotary, we always have interesting things to talk about at dinner. We are all involved in different service, in different clubs, so when we sit down together, we are talking about humanitarian needs of every kind, in every part of the world. There is always something new to learn.

Our conversations are also a wonderful way to teach our children, through our own actions, what is really important in life. They learn about what life is like in different parts of the world, and how all of us have an obligation to help others when we can. I can think of no better lessons to teach our families than the lessons of Rotary service.

I hope that in this Rotary year, many of you will encourage your family members to join Rotary, Rotaract, or Interact. Bringing your family into Rotary doesn't just Light Up Rotary – it lights up your own lives as well. (Courtesy of RI)



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—\$2011**

Last week a delighted Ray Faubion drew the Seven of Clubs to win \$500.
As always,,we’re all winners as the “fifty-fifty” helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve.

**“Rotary Sings”
“O Chritmas Tree”**

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Tree,

Your branches green
delight us!



They are
green when
summer days are
bright,

They are
green when winter
snow is white.

O Christmas Tree, O
Christmas Tree,
Your branches green
delight us!

O Christmas Tree, O
Christmas Tree,
Forever true your color.
Your boughs so green in
summertime
Stay bravely green in
wintertime.
O Christmas Tree, O
Christmas Tree
Forever true your color.



**It’s A
Birthday
Celebration!**

None to Report



**This
Morning’s
Speaker**

Steve Popper
“Meals of Hope”
“Holidays Without Hunger”

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

Gracious God, as we enter and reflect upon the final month of the year, we give thanks for having been escorted providentially by Your Spirit through times of turmoil and triumph. Even in times unrealized by us You have been our Guardian, our Source of comfort and strength, our everlasting Hope.

Let the spirit of “peace, good will toward men” prevail throughout this month, and inspire us to Rotarians to work to bring that to pass. Material things are so much with us, while spiritual realities are allowed by many to be illusive. Help us to reverse that order regardless of the particular religious tradition we follow.

We give thanks for the food we take so much for granted, and for the gift of fellowship which lifts our spirits. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

McCaw Wealth Management
Mark W. McCaw
Sr Vice President—Wealth Mgmt, Sr Portfolio Manager
8000 Health Center Blvd., Suite 150, Bonita Springs,
FL 34135-8175
239-495-4192 888-300-9001
mark.mccaw@ubs.com

ubs.com/fa/markmccaw



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