



The Spoke

Making Important "Strides"

Sunday's Open House Offers Information--and an Invitation



Last Sunday morning **Sandy Scoggins** snapped the photo of **Rick Barber** and **Frank Mazzeo** as they not only applied their culinary expertise but volunteered at the Operations Strides Open House for the benefit of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

As we all know, Operation Strides is one of the charities that our Alternative Fundraising Initiative, spearheaded by **Jon McLeod**, supports. The Naples Equestrian Challenge (NEC) provides therapeutic riding programs for children and adults with disabilities and special needs. NEC has added equine-facilitated learning and equine-facilitated psychotherapy to its programming and has developed a curriculum for Operation Strides. It is currently looking for veterans and volunteers to participate in its program.

Sessions start in January. If you'd like more information, see Sandy who also merits special thanks for providing the Spoke this information and picture.

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Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

**Nancy Ross, President; Steve McIntosh,
Secretary; Tom Burgess, Treasurer; Fred
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Mathes, Trustees**

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Stephanie presided. **Rex Sims** led the invocation; Hector Manley the Pledge of Allegiance and **Scott Anderson** the 4-Way Test.

Our Board Nominating Committee is seeking and accepting nominations to fill Board positions for four new Board positions. The elections will be held at the January 9th Board meeting. If you have any questions please see **President Stephanie** or **President-elect Bobbi**.

A Wheelchair Update--Our Club's efforts provided resources to allow a container of wheelchairs to be delivered to Honduras in January. A group is being organized to travel to Honduras on February 8 and 9 to distribute the wheelchairs. If you are interested in participating in the wheelchair distribution process, please hold those dates "open" on your calendars. More information is forthcoming.

Our Program--We had the honor of hearing Hector Manley describe the trip, quest, mission, and adventure known as "Paddling for a Purpose." The mission of Paddling for Purpose was and is that of raising money and awareness

for The Wounded Warriors and The Wheelchair Foundation, organizations seeking to provide for those who have been injured or who suffer from debilitating health conditions. We enjoyed Hector's travelogue and learned that his efforts raised approximately \$42,000. Congratulations and thanks Hector. You are an extraordinary and



shining example of the words "courage" and "determination." Visit us again soon.

FROM THE EDITOR: WELCOME TO YOUR "NEW" SPOKE

Welcome to your "new" Spoke. Just as the Club it represents, your new Spoke seeks to be fun, insightful, relevant--and easy to read.

It becomes abundantly clear to anyone tasked with the role of preparing and producing the Spoke that doing so is a unique privilege and honor as it links our Club's proud past with its bright future. Accordingly, many Spoke "traditions" are being retained within this format. Page 2 will remain our "Club page," reporting on our meetings and programs.

You'll continue to find lyrics to the song of the week, birthdays



and the winner of our coveted 50/50 on Page 4.

Since "fun" is important, Page 3 is the "Editor's Wildcard," where you might find Club, District, or National news, interesting

information on one of Rotary's international initiatives, or a pictorial collage preserving the memories of one of our social events. And page 1 has been completely redesigned to provide space for a "headline" photograph and article

Special thanks go out to Editor Emeritus **Scott Gerrish (rr)** for its input, help, inspiration and humor throughout this entire process.

We hope you enjoy your "new" Spoke. Please let us know how we are doing. *Your Editor*.



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 website www.bonitaspringsrotary.org. **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.

FROM RI: "A CALL FOR PEACE WITHOUT BORDERS"



More than 1,800 Rotarians, community leaders, and students and alumni of the Rotary Peace Centers program gathered in Berlin 30 November through 2 December to promote peace during the first of three Rotary Global Peace Forums.

The three-day Berlin forum was the largest Rotary event in Germany since the RI Convention in Munich 25 years ago. The audience was as diverse as the nationalities of the participants, with Rotaractors, Rotary Peace Fellows, exchange students, and guests joining Rotarians and community leaders. Involving 12 countries also took part in the forum.



From Honolulu to Berlin to Hiroshima Rotary spearheads a "Peace Without Borders" Initiative

Berlin declaration
The attendees adopted a [declaration](#) calling for "Peace Without Borders," recognizing

that "all human beings have the right to live in a state of peace, free from violence, persecution, inequality, and suffering."

The three sites for the peace forums were selected by RI President Sakuji Tanaka because each was heavily affected by the events of World War II and now represents the healing power of sustainable peace between nations.

"As a member of the first generation to grow up in Japan after World War II, I understand the importance of peace and its connection to our well-being," said Tanaka. "Working for peace is a lifelong task. Every day, in 34,000 clubs around the world, we work together for a more peaceful world by bringing water, health, education, and

hope to the people who need it most."

My Rotary Moment

Every Rotarian, said Tanaka, has a story to tell. Some of those are compiled in his new book "[My Rotary Moment](#)," a collection of personal essays and stories written by Rotary's senior leaders.

Calmer societies

RI General Secretary John Hewko explained how Rotary's humanitarian service, even when it is not explicitly labeled peace-building, creates communities and societies that are calmer, more prosperous, and less violent.

"By helping to build a healthier, more literate society, you are doing the single most effective thing you can do to establish peace in the long term," Hewko said.

OUR HOLIDAY PARTY: A HUGE AND HAPPY SUCCESS

On Saturday evening December 8 we all met in our Holiday pretty to enjoy a signature seasonal event and tradition, our Holiday Party. The evening was marked by music, fun, and laughter. Thanks to **George Cohan** and his Committee for the making the evening the success that it was--and to **Mike Liggins** for taking those wonderful Holiday portraits.





"The Fifty-Fifty"
This Week's Big Prize--\$1538

A delighted **Jim O'Leary** drew the Three of Spades to win \$500.

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

**Our
Upcoming
Speakers**

January 2, Debra Haley, Executive Director New Horizons of SWFL

January 9, Heidi Ruster, American Red Cross

January 16, Sarah Owen, Southwest Florida Community Foundation and Debra Braendle, Bonita Springs Community Fund

January 23, Steve Agius, The Wheelchair Foundation

January 30, The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida



It's A Birthday Celebration!

None to Report

Rotary "Sings"



We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring
To you of good cheer
Good tidings for Christmas
And a Happy New Year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.

Celebrating Wednesdays
Last week **Bill Oehler, Sue Masters, and Dick Fredrickson** joined many of their fellow Rotarians for friendship and food at Fitzgeralds in support of our Relay for Life initiative. Thanks "team"—your help is appreciated.



Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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