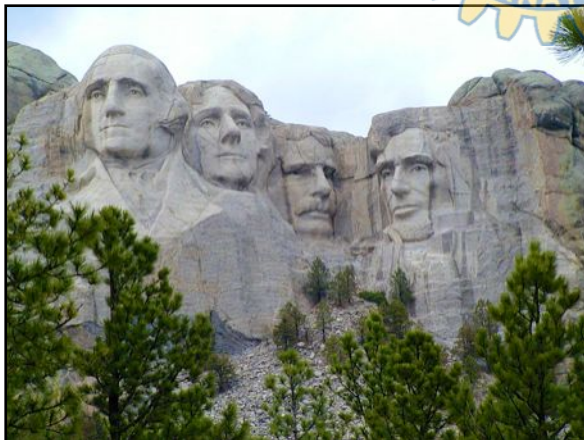




The Spoke

Who are these guys?



The Mount Rushmore National Memorial is a sculpture carved into the granite face of Mount Rushmore near Keystone, South Dakota. Sculpted by Danish-American Gutzon Borglum and his son, Lincoln Borglum, Mount Rushmore features 60-foot sculptures of the heads of four United States presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

South Dakota historian Doane Robinson is credited with conceiving the idea of carving the likenesses of famous people into the Black Hills region of South Dakota in order to promote tourism in the region.

The Mount Rushmore location was chosen because of the quality of the granite and the advantage of facing southeast for maximum sun exposure.

After securing federal funding, construction on the memorial began in 1927, and the presidents' faces were completed between 1934 and 1939. Although the initial concept called for each president to be depicted from head to waist, lack of funding forced construction to end in late October 1941.

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The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island

Area 3 Assistant Governor

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The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

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Mike Liggins	Sandy Scoggins

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***The Wheelchair Foundation/Rotary
mission to Tegucigalpa, Honduras
report by Bob Lombardo***



We began our wheelchair adventure on Friday afternoon February 8 where we were picked up from the airport by several Rotarians from the Tegucigalpa Rotary Club. They drove us in several vehicles to visit the warehouse where the wheelchairs were being stored.

We were then transported to Hotel Honduras Maya where we were able to check in, unpack and unwind for an hour. Several of our new found Rotary brothers then brought us to a very Honduran traditional restaurant where we dined and all got better acquainted. In attendance were about 12 Rotarians, some with spouses and even a grandfather and granddaughter. There were about 25 of us in total. Little did I know that we would become so close to many of these people by the end of our trip.

At 7:30 the next morning, we were transported to the Tegucigalpa Rotary Club headquarters to assemble and distribute two truckloads of wheelchairs to very young

children on up to the very elderly.

The day started off a little chaotic with lots of hands with no real direction. After a while, we all settled into the activity of assembly, tire filling, people fitting and picture taking. By about 12:30 we had successfully placed all the people who were there that morning to receive their wheelchairs.



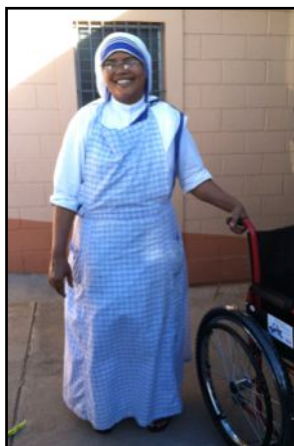
We then loaded up several pickup trucks with boxed wheelchairs and proceeded to deliver them to three area hospitals.

Our first stop was Hospital San Felipe. Over 100 years old, this hospital is an enormous one story series of structures in very bad repair. We assembled about 20 wheel chairs and presented them to the administrator who then gave us a tour. There were exposed wires and disrepair evident everywhere.

Of note, this hospital was closed due to lack of funds a few years ago and brought back to life thanks to the efforts of the Rotary clubs in the city. As bad as it was physically, it serves the people in great need in Tegucigalpa.

Our next stop was the Hospital School where we assembled and delivered about 10 wheelchairs and a few of the Rotarians stayed for a tour.

The rest of us proceeded on to The Sisters of Mercy hospital to deliver another 10 wheelchairs. This is the order that was created by Mother Theresa from Calcutta.



We met the Sister that ran the facility who was also from Calcutta and assembled the wheelchairs outside the facility.

We then brought the chairs into a large room occupied by about 20 patients.

These poor souls aged from about 12 to over 90 were all very severely mentally impaired. Our hearts were very touch by these most unfortunate people. We then placed two elderly ladies in wheel chairs and by then there were very few dry eyes in the room. This by far, for me, was the most difficult and rewarding part of our mission.

After a quick stop at our hotel to freshen up, we were picked up by our now good Rotary friends and driven to the house of the Tegucigalpa Rotary President, Fidel de Velasquez and his lovely wife Ines. We were escorted up four floors to their roof top where we were treated to a beautiful paella dinner under the stars. In attendance were all our new Rotary friends and their families.

Mr. de Velasquez gave a very heartwarming speech and several of us followed suit. We were then all called up to receive award certificates and Tegucigalpa Rotary banners.

Sunday morning, after a well needed night's sleep, we went back to the Club headquarters and assembled and distributed more

wheelchairs. By this time, we were all expert in wheel chair assembly.



While conversing with the mother of a young boy who we had just placed in a chair, I discovered that he would be able to walk with a surgical procedure that was unfortunately not possible due to the expense and the family financial condition. His mother was hoping that we could help her with the expense of the surgery.

After several minutes of speaking to her through an interpreter and networking with the other Rotarians, we were able to arrange for little Armando to be a candidate for his needed surgery to be performed by a surgical team mission that would be coming to Tegucigalpa next January. More tears and a very nice embrace and kiss from a very grateful mother.

Shortly after this "Rotary miracle" we left for the airport. We were accompanied by several of our new Rotary brothers and President Fidel all the way to the security check point. More tears and hugs.

The dollars we all gave to purchase these wheelchairs didn't just provide better mobility to those in need, they changed lives and created at least one miracle I can attest to and most assuredly many more.

Photos by Bob and Klaus Helf

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Stephanie Kissenger** welcomed us on *National Change Your Name Day*. Members of the Estero High School Interact Club assisted with the opening ceremonies. **Cecilia Morales** gave the invocation, **Courtney Larkin** and **Victoria Matthews** led the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Katie Larkin** flawlessly recited the 4-Way Test. **Ron Anderson** led the singing of *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*.

Steve Slachta introduced the faculty and students of the month from Estero High School and Stephanie presented them with gift certificates. The honorees were **Debbie Ottman**, Staff of the Month; **Barb Young**, Faculty of the Month; **Yanelli Andalon**, Academic Student of the month; **Cecelia Morales**, Service Student of the Month.

Susan Schmitt will be taking orders for Rotary shirts for the next two weeks. Susan expects the prices to be between \$39-49 depending on style and quantity ordered.

Drew Clark reported he and his fiancée had entered a competition and were chosen in the top three of 450 couples. They won an all expense paid wedding and a contribution to their favorite charity, The Wounded Warriors Project.

Wendy Arsenault reported a successful Bark in the Park raising about more than \$2,000.

Bob Lombardo reminded us of the Mini Golf tournament at the Congo River course, March 20th. Tickets that can be used anytime during the year will be \$12/each. Hole sponsorships are available for \$50.

Sgt-at-arms **George Cohan** fined himself \$10 for not wearing a Rotary pin. He greeted visitors then proceeded to birthdays.

Les James had an all-woman serenade to

"Dear Les". **Bobbi Bird** insisted that George sing a solo to her for her \$60 contribution. He did calling her "you sweet red head".

For his own birthday, George had the men under 37 sing to him. His selected dedication this year was "Dear Old Fart", somewhat more appropriate than last year's "Georgy Porgy, pudding and pie."

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Adam Botana came to us as the Immediate Past President of the Noon Club. He was born in Naples in 1984 and was brought up "around here" and other places as his family was in the traveling carnival

business. The family's principal business now is Bay Water Boat Club but they still do fairs in Michigan and Mississippi.

Adam's mother moved here from Michigan, his dad came from Cuba, by airplane. The parents were high school sweethearts at Naples High School.

The Bay Water Exclusive Boat Club and Rentals was started in 2004 with two rental boats. The operation expanded to 14 boats in 6 months as other rental operators sold their locations because of the high real estate prices of the time.

Adam said, "I joined Rotary for business to meet people and potential customers. But then I began liking the camaraderie and the fun and joviality of the meetings. It's a good time and I really enjoy it."

ESTERO HIGH SCHOOL

Interact Club and other notes



Steve McIntosh presented the officers and faculty advisors of the Estero High School Interact Club saying this is clearly the best group of officers in the 15 years that he has been sponsoring the club. It is the largest and most active service club at the school with 65 members.

The club is self-supporting. Members work at Taste of Bonita and do car washes to raise money. The list of projects the club has participated in is impressive. Some of them include: Project Heifer, a car wash for Children's Hospital, Pennies from the Heart, Earth Day, Freshman Orientation, Bonita Assistance Office, I Like Me, and Dictionary Day. They'll be great Rotarians soon.



Steve introduced **George Clover**, Principal of Estero High. George said "This has been a great year for Estero High School. We are thrilled to be able to say 'we're an A school. ..one of the best schools in the entire area.'" There are a lot of things going on. Students from the Medical Academy are doing

internships at nursing homes and hospitals and he says EHS has the only successful Hospitality and Tourism program in Lee County.

There are still students that have no desire to go to college, but want to work and work very hard. About 15 years ago the school had a wood working shop that was eliminated. He began looking around for electives for students who don't want to take all of the college courses.

Upcoming Speakers

February 20,
Dr Burke, Lee County School
Supt.

February 27,
Bob Cioppino, founder and
Director of the Florida Repertory
in Ft Myers.

Club Events

Club Social

Tuesday, Feb 26, 5-7 pm
GadgetEase & KnowDibs
4445 Bonita Beach Rd

Habitat for Humanity,

Saturday, March 2nd. Contact
Ron Anderson.

Mini Golf and Social at the
Congo River course, Wednesday
March 20th

Relay for Life, Friday &
Saturday, April 5-6. Contact Bobbi
Bird

Reverse Raffle, Saturday, April
20th

District Conference, May 16-19.
Contact web site or Jane Goble.

The result was spending hundreds of thousands for a new shop on campus.

Students are learning using the latest equipment for welding, wiring, and other disciplines getting ready to become skilled workmen for the community. The kids are ecstatic with the opportunity.

**"The Fifty-Fifty" NOW \$1,962
A Blinking Camilla Campbell drew the
7♠ to win \$5**

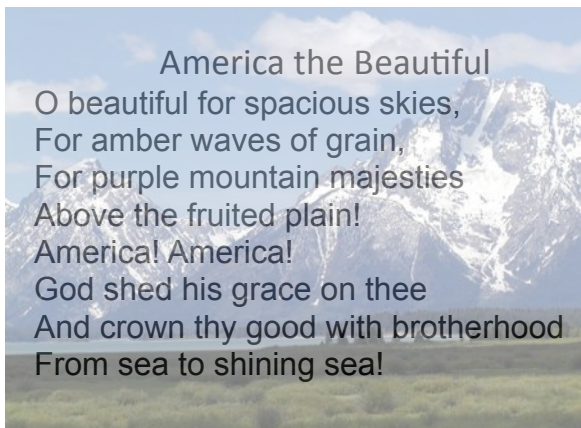


**As always..we're all winners as the "Fifty-Fifty" helps
keep our club strong and ready to serve.**

Rotary Sings



The "Young" Rotarian Choir



America the Beautiful
O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!



It's A Birthday Celebration!

- Todd Kluener Feb 21**
- Sue Masters Feb 22**
- Steve McIntosh Feb 25**
- Roger Brunswick Feb 26**

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**The 4-Way Test
of things we think, say or do.**

**Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?
Will it build GOODWILL and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all CONCERNED?**

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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. Scott Gerrish (rr) issue editor.