



The Spoke

The Coast Guard in SWFL



CPO Keller

Coast Guardsmen, CPO **Keller** and PO 1 **Peterson** from the CG Station at Fort Myers Beach, presented a slide show outlining the Coast Guard's organization and activities in our area.

The Coast Guard has 50,000 full time military and civilians augmented by 8,000 part time reservists and 32,000 auxiliary volunteers.

Our area is part of District 7 which covers GA, SC, and FL. We are in "Sector St Petersburg" that covers the west coast of the Florida peninsula. There are five stations in the sector with FMB being the southernmost. The Area of Responsibility of the FMB station is from Boca Grande to Rabbit Key, about 150 nm of coast line.

The mission of the Sector is "Ensuring the Safety and Security of the People, Commerce and Waters of Western Florida." The emphasis is on vessel movements through Tampa Bay.

The assets available in the Sector include an Aid to Navigation Team, 8 cutters, 24 small boats, and 321 auxiliary boats. The Air

Station Clearwater has 9 helos, 6 HC-130H fixed wing aircraft, and 2, 210' cutters.

Station Fort Myers Beach has 76 people augmented by 46 part time reservists. The station has 4 small boats in addition to the 87' cutter Marlin that is stationed here. Sub-stations have been established at Naples and Marco to reduce the response time to events in those areas.

The CG relies heavily on other local agencies who make up the **Marine Emergency Response Team**. Team members include local fire and county sheriff departments. "We definitely appreciate the assistance of the Auxiliary and we work with local, state and federal agencies."

Chief Keller said, "Our goal is to make sure mariners are safe on the water and it's up to us as boarding officers to go out there and ensure that the mariner is safe. We are allowed to board to make sure the vessel is in compliance with all applicable federal law and regulations. If we find contraband or illegals the boarding party become law enforcement officers."

The Chief noted that the shrimping fleet seems to have quite a lot of problems keeping up to snuff with what they are supposed to do. "The captains don't like it and they are not very happy with us but it's for their own safety. They don't like us, but when we go out and save them, then they love us."

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Sandy Hemstead** presided. **Mark McCaw** presented the invocation; the Coast Guardsmen guest speakers led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Gary Price** recited the Four Way Test flawlessly. Substitute song leader **Scott Anderson** remarked that our song, *You are My Sunshine*, marked the creation of Country Music in 1939.

Sandy reported on the passing of Rotary Regular **Larry Miller**. He had a massive heart attack just after getting to a hotel on his way back to Illinois. Larry had received the Herb Barnes Heart of Rotary award at the Installation Banquet. Memorial gifts may be made to the Rotary Foundation.

Jim Renfro, attending his last meeting before jetting off to Sweden, praised the City's landscaping project on Terry Street.

Jim Horein, not wanting to leave for the summer without a last word, advised, "Always borrow money from a pessimist; they don't expect to you to pay it back."

Chuck Spears rose to thank those who participated in the New Horizons Golf Outing which made \$85k. This means 42 more kids in the program next year.

George Cohan reported that before the meeting **Jon McLeod** was whining about Tom Brady's penalty. George noted "It's hard to see a grown man cry because Tom Brady got penalized. Jon doesn't understand that everyone except New Englanders hate the Patriots."

Bob Lombardo again reported that the Veteran's Bricks will be placed at Riverside Park on Saturday, May 23rd at 9 am. If you cannot be there and want a specific brick placement please contact Bob.

Mark McCaw reported that the first Summer Saturday Golf Outing was a success.

The plans are still to offer 9 or 18 holes of golf on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. This is non-competitive for fun golf at very reasonable rates on great golf courses.

In addition, Mark is planning a Thursday, group lesson at 11 am, luncheon Rotary meeting, and 9 or 18 holes of golf in the afternoon. Please call or email Mark to get the golf announcements.

Jack Powers came forward to present the Monthly awards for Estero High School. This was the last award for this academic year and the last for Jack who will be replaced as presenter by **Scott Vail** next season. This is exam time at the high school so we had only one recipient able to attend. The Service Student of the month was **Alexis Valone**, a freshman. Alexis has great grades in advanced classes and is active with the Interact Club. She has the most community service hours with the club this semester. Her favorite subject is math and the Race for the Cure her favorite service activity.

Alexis is shown in the photo with Jack,



Sandy, and Alexis' parents.

Jack was praised for his leadership in this program. He said, "It's been an honor and



whole lot of fun for me to meet so many great people from Estero High School. Teachers and staff members doing fantastic things. And, of course, the students just make you feel really good about the future.”

“There are so many bright young people doing great things academically as well as service to others.”

Sandy made a short speech offering “equal opportunity for political announcements”. This was a segue to announcing a **McIntosh4Mayor** campaign event.

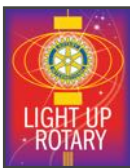


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George Cohan was Sergeant-at-arms. He recognized **Chris Reisen** and **Chuck Spears** as birthday boys and organized a shout out to “Chris and Chuck, you old farts”.



He then fined **Jon McCleod** \$10 for whining, mitigated by having the others at the table contribute \$1 to help pay the fine.



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133. You can reach **The Spoke** through its email BonitaSpoke@aol.com. **Scott Gerrish** issue editor.

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

Last Week: A Smiling Scott Angevine drew 5♠ to win \$5.



**The 50/50
\$620**

**Rotary Chants:
Aussie Aussie Aussie, Oi Oi Oi**

- Individual: "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie!"
- Crowd: "Oi! Oi! Oi!"
- Individual: "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie!"
- Crowd: "Oi! Oi! Oi!"
- Individual: "Aussie!"
- Crowd: "Oi!"
- Individual: "Aussie!"
- Crowd: "Oi!"
- Individual (faster): "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie!"
- Crowd (equally fast): "Oi! Oi! Oi!"

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?

This Week:

Susanne Rea
Worlds Greatest Meal
to Help End Polio

Birthdays

Buddy Cliff May 14th

This Morning's Invocation

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, in this week of national remembering, we recall with appreciation the blessings of the past which give us reason for hope in the future. We are grateful that life for us is not just an isolated moment, but an experience linking us with yesterday.

We give thanks for the gift of memory by which past relationships and experiences continue to be cherished.

With somber reflection but also with rejoicing, we have assembled to pursue our Rotarian purposes.

Bless for our enrichment the food and fellowship we take for granted but which are precious gifts from Your beneficent Hand.

Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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