



# The Spoke

June 22, 2016



## The Director of Golf



Next President Steve Slachta introduced our speaker E. J. McDonnell, Director of Golf for the Bonita Bay Club. The BB Club is one of the largest member owned clubs in the country. There are 5 golf courses, 2 facilities, 500 golf carts, with 2,500 stored golf bags. Last year 115,000 rounds of golf were played.

E.J. noted that the easier way not to play any golf is to become a club pro. “We are mentors, coaches, retail managers, and accountants. Most important day to day is weatherman. Everyone wants to know what my radar looks like because it’s a lot better than theirs.”

E.J. got hooked on golf as a young teen, giving up football and baseball for golf. He played on the mini-tour circuit with modest success. With the encouragement of his fiancé, Wendy, he competes in Long Drive Tournaments and won the first one he entered.

When asked about the declining interest in golf, he says, “I don’t believe golf is going downhill. PGA has a lot new initiatives going forward. Here at Bonita Bay we’re trying to get former avid golfers back into the game through golf and fitness instruction. Increased participation will bring more children and grand children to the game. Our members are playing more golf than we’ve ever seen.”

He says, “We’re in the fun business. Can’t take ourselves too seriously. Make sure we’re having fun with it.”

Last Week Meeting  
President Tom Briers presided. Week 51.



Nancy Ross presented a special invocation in honor of Flag Day. Tom led the Pledge of Allegiance and Susan Schmitt recited the Four Way Test beautifully.



Substitute Song Leader Jon McLeod finally got the lyrics to Margaritaville published in The Spoke. He showed up with his guitar and Jim Dati to lead the singing.

Dale Timble thanked everyone who helped the Bonita Blues Festival raise \$50,000 this year. The BBF was able to give \$16,000 each to Bonita Springs Assistance Office, Music for Minors, and The Music Therapy program at Golisano's Children's Hospital. In addition, BBF gave \$2,000 to the Bonita Middle School to help with the new Steel Drum equipment for the band.

The Sunset Cruise sponsored by Adam Botana will be Thursday, June 23rd at 6 pm rain or shine. There's plenty of parking at the Bay Water Boat Club.



President Tom introduced his nephew Col. Jody Richmond, an active duty C130 pilot with the WV Air National Guard. Jody has been in the Air Force for 27

years. He and Col. Steve Slachta were able to sit together and do some “hangar flying.”



Col. Jody Richmond

Jon McLeod told us of his friend and former riding companion, Joanne Gonzalez, a 36-year-old veterinarian and avid cyclist, who had an accident 4 weeks ago while road cycling in Sa Calobra (Majorca, Spain). She has been in a coma all this time.

Doctors say that she will be ready to be transferred back to the United States, where she will undergo neurological rehabilitation, within a few weeks. The cost of an air ambulance is about \$80,000. Jon has sent an email with details of how to contribute.

George Cohan reappeared to act as Sergeant-at-Arms. He noted that the men have “really aged in the last month.” [While he was missing]



Jay Berube brought some special lyrics for George to sing for Jay’s birthday:

I’m gonna give free dog walks to you,  
I’m gonna give free dog walks to you,  
Don’t worry Mr Berube  
This is my gift to you.

Don Thomson’s \$58 birthday was a little easier, a shout out led by Col. Richmond.

George checked on pins and badges. Gary Murphy fished out \$5 for all the offenders.

## Bill Banfield, The Voice of SWFL



Bill Banfield came forward to present his Vocational Service Moment. He was brought up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and graduated from Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA. Bill notes that that a key focus of the school is the Jesuit philosophy of “men and women for others. I’ve always tried to achieve that.”

Bill works at Wells Fargo advisors. As of June 1st, he has become a member of The Moran-Edwards Asset Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors. This is the largest group in the company.

Bill is a member of the Board of Directors of the Bonita Springs Assistance Office, active member of

Our Lady of Light Catholic Church, the Advisory Board for Catholic Charities of Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties, a member of the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and a Rotarian.

Many people recognize Bill when he speaks. It's not that they know Banfield personally. Instead what they're recognizing is his hearty baritone voice. He is practically the voice of sports in SWFL. Anyone who has been to a local high school game, seen the Miracle play, or attended a number of charity auctions have likely heard him. "Some people like fishing, I love announcing games."

Among Bill's future assignments is a trip with the Wounded Warriors softball team to Detroit to honor the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

Bill says, "Rotary has given me a tremendous amount of satisfaction, and I appreciate the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people and be a member of this amazing group and everything we strive to accomplish."

## **This Week: Carl Schwing**

Carl has served as the City Manager of Bonita Springs since June, 2011. Before Bonita Springs, Carl worked for the City of Cape Coral from July 2002 to June 2011. In 2013, he was credited as one of the individuals instrumental in the Hertz Corporation's decision to move from New Jersey to Southwest Florida. Also, in 2014 he was named by Gulf Shore Business magazine as one of 36 people in Southwest Florida "who make things happen."



# Focused Ray Faubion drew the 10♠ to win \$5



The 50/50 is \$1,277

*Birthdays*

None in database

**Rotary Sings:  
Amazing Grace**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

## **This Morning's Invocation**

O God, we pray for all Rotarians throughout the world that their visions and dreams might be realized, that their projects might be successful, and their beneficial influence be felt in high places and low.

Inspire us all to be responsive to needs, to live and act with integrity, to serve with love, that peace might be real and lasting.

Hear now our thanks for food to nourish us, for fellowship to enrich us, for work to engage us, all in accord with Your will to empower us and Your Spirit to guide us. Amen.



<b>President</b>	<b>Thomas B. Briers</b>
<b>President-Elect</b>	<b>Steven Slachta</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jon McLeod</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bob Lombardo</b>
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>George M. Cohan III</b>

**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](mailto:BonitaSpoke@aol.com). **Scott Gerrish** issue editor.