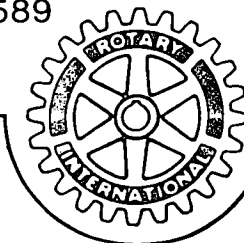


SPACE CENTER ROTARY CLUB BLASTOFF

The Space Center Rotary Club
meets on Mondays, 11:45 a.m.
at the Nassau Bay Hilton

Rotary International District 589



"Put life into Rotary - your life"

January 9, 1989

SPACE CENTER ROTARY EVENTS

Mon., Jan. 9

* Noon at the Hilton. **Caldwell Johnson** of Space Industries, Inc. will present a program on "Designing Space Craft for Living in Space."

* Noon at the Hilton. Collection for **Interfaith Caring Ministries**. Please share your abundance.

Mon., Jan. 16

No meeting due to the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Tues., Jan. 17

* 7:00 a.m. at the Hilton. **Board of Directors** meeting.

* 8:00 a.m. at the Hilton. **Red Badge** meeting.

* 9:00 a.m. Blastoff goes to press.

Thurs., Jan. 19

* 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton. **Space Center Women of Rotary** will have a luncheon meeting. A docent from the Houston Museum of Fine Arts will present a slide program on the impressionist and post-impressionist period.

Mon., Jan. 23

* Noon at the Hilton. **Walt Lacky** will present a program on the Rotary Foundation.

Mon., Jan. 30

* Noon at the Hilton. **Ms. Wiedke Ernst**, an International Youth Exchange student from Germany, will present our program.

Thurs., Feb. 2

Third Annual National Space Award Dinner sponsored by the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Foundation (RNASA). As a prelude to the dinner, a Space Forum of five distinguished speakers will be held.

Feb. 17-20, 1989

A visit to our sister club, the **Aeropuerto Club** in Mexico City, is scheduled.

April 27-29, 1989

At the Hyatt Regency in San Antonio. **District 589 Annual Conference.**

May 13, 1989

Our club will host the **District Assembly** at South Shore Harbour Hotel.

May 21-25, 1989.

Rotary International Annual Convergence in Korea.



Scott Salmond, an International Youth Exchange student from Australia, who has spent a year in the Clear Lake area, told us all about life in his hometown down under.

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Dr. Neil Frank, a native of northwest Kansas whose ambition when he entered college was to become a basketball coach, entertained us by telling about the twists and turns that led him to a 25-year career in Miami, Florida as the most visible spokesman for the weather service and a noted authority on hurricanes. Dr. Frank, who is now the weatherman for Channel 11, also showed us some before and after pictures on Gulf Coast buildings that did not survive hurricanes, and offered suggestions to reduce property loss and loss of life in hurricanes.



Our club presented a check for \$1,000 to **Interfaith Caring Ministries**. Pictured from left to right are **Maggie Corcoron**, a director, **Pat Brackett**, president of the board of Interfaith Caring Ministries, and (making the presentation for our club) **Dave Cordell**.

Interact

(From the Rotary Basic Library)

For 75 days, two adventurous young cyclists pedaled their way across the United States through rain, floods, mountains, desert, poison ivy, and stomach cramps in a supreme effort to raise money for the Hemophilia Foundation, an organization which provides vital services to those suffering from this debilitating and dangerous blood disorder. With the exception of an unscheduled bicycle crash in Tennessee, every stop along the route was planned months in advance by members of the Interact Club of Dracut, Massachusetts, U.S.A., who worked together with the Rotary Club of Dracut to organize and sponsor the "Ocean to Ocean for Hemophilia" Bicycle Tour.

The Interactors ("Inter" for international, "act" for action) first learned about the plight of hemophiliacs when their Rotary club arranged for a representative of the Hemophilia Foundation, who had recently addressed the Rotary club, to speak at an Interact club meeting.

Guided by their sponsoring Rotary club, the Interactors informed Rotary clubs of the project and its goals: To raise money for the Foundation and to increase public awareness about hemophilia. They also contacted various organizations and corporations throughout the country, soliciting contributions of funds and equipment to assure the success of the plan. For example, a bicycle manufacturer donated the bicycles for the tour - even a replacement for the bicycle totaled in the aforementioned crash.

In addition, the Interactors contacted the Rotary clubs along the planned route. As a result, the weary cyclists found a good meal, hospitality, and lodging waiting for them at many of the stops along the way.

By the time the two travelers had completed the coast-to-coast journey, they had traveled for 4,086 hours and had been hosted by 29 different Rotary clubs. They had met senators, mayors, and other dignitaries, and had been encouraged en route by the many hemophiliacs who had come to cheer them on.

As for the Interactors, their hard work and dedication helped to raise US\$23,000 for a very worthy cause.

What motivates the young club members, ages 14-18, to leave their pleasant pastimes and comfortable surroundings at home to meet, discuss, assign responsibilities, and work out details of this and other projects? It is simply that working together to solve social problems has become a way of life for the Interactors, who will doubtless make important contributions to the life of Dracut - and perhaps beyond - in the productive years to come.

The members of the Interact club of Dracut provide an outstanding example of how Interactors fulfill the objective of the organization: "To provide opportunity for young people to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding." Some of the goals of the program aim to recognize and develop constructive leadership and personal integrity; to encourage thoughtfulness and helpfulness to others, and to develop an attitude of individual responsibility within the local, national, and international communities.

By the late 1980's, some 25 years after the founding of the first Interact club, there were well over 100,000 members pouring their enthusiasm and energy into the lives of their communities in

as many as 5,000 clubs located in more than 80 countries.

The clubs, which were at first limited to boys, now accept both boys and girls at the pre-university level, generally between the ages of 14-18. Clubs may be based in the community or at schools, and they must undertake at least two major projects each year, one designed to serve the school or community where the club is based, the other to promote international understanding. Club members finance their own projects, initiate and carry out their own activities, under the leadership of their elected officers and guidance of their sponsoring Rotary club or clubs. This guidance is essential, not only because of the Interactors' youth, but because the existence of an Interact club depends upon the active personal participation of the sponsoring club.

Some Interactors choose the most direct ways to help meet the main needs of their community. In just one year, for example, members of the Interact Club of Upper Hill School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nairobi-South, Kenya, helped maintain a center for disabled youngsters, joined in the children's games and brought them candy (sweets) and other treats, donated 32 litres (67.6 pints) of blood to the local blood donor service, and organized a "walk-a-thon" to aid a school building fund. In regard to administrative matters, these Interactors took turns attending the meetings of the sponsoring Rotary club and all attended joint luncheons and discussion sessions with their sponsors. The diverse program of this Interact club formed a lively part of the Community Service activities of the Rotary Club of Nairobi-South. Some other examples:

The Interact Club of Parangue Municipal High School in Manila, Philippines, is doing its share to help its school's attendance. The Interactors raise money to subsidize the cost of transportation to and from school for 15 needy students.

Interactors of the Hokodate LaSalle Senior High School Club in Hokkaido, Japan, found satisfaction through International Service. To help a Tokyo priest in his efforts to aid needy students in Africa and India, they collected thousands of attractive calendars that are printed each year in Japan. The calendars were sent to Europe where their novelty and exquisite design prompted admirers of Japanese art to buy them and thus contribute funds to the project. The club won a special award from Rotary International for promoting international understanding.

Sometimes international understanding comes about through luck abetted by goodwill. A Rotary living in southern California, U.S.A., who had been brought up in Japan, often treated his visiting Japanese Rotarian friends to cultural tours near his home. In return he was invited to Japan to visit the Fukushima and Yamagata regions.

It was arranged for nine Interactors and three adult sponsors to make the trip. Each Interactor stayed in the homes of six different host families, visited Rotary club members, and toured industries, schools, and places of interest. One Interactor related that, "As often as we could, we walked in the villages and towns. We were in a part of Japan where few strangers go. People often stopped us just to say hello." And from another Interactor, "I really enjoyed my home stays. I was fascinated by how Japanese homes differ from our homes and yet resemble them."

Considering the enthusiasm of the youthful Interactors, it is easy to understand why the number of Interact clubs continues to grow.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ray Graham won the recent Paul Harris raffle and received \$100.00, which he immediately contributed to Interfaith Caring Ministries.

Applications are now due for the **Rotary Summer Youth Exchange Programs**. These are short-term exchanges. Typically, a U.S. high school student will spend three weeks abroad with the family of a foreign student and the foreign student will spend three weeks in the U.S. with the family of the U.S. student and members of our club. The youth need not be children of Rotarians. Applicants should contact **Alan Wiley** or **Karen Birchenough**.

Our club and the **World Health Foundation** are continuing to make arrangements for children who are disfigured to come to Clear Lake for corrective surgery at St. John Hospital. Special thanks to **Al Jowid** and **Dr.**

Fustok for their hard work on this project and to our sister club, the **Aeropuerta Rotary Club** in Mexico City, for its continuing support of the program.

Our club received a letter from **Bridgeport** thanking us for our contribution and giving us details of its achievements so far.

Dr. Roger Lyons, who had been in the cardiac unit of Methodist Hospital, is improving.

Our \$50.00 contributors are on pages 2 and 3 of the **BLASTOFF**. If you would like to make a \$50.00 contribution and be recognized or if you would like to continue your \$50.00 contributions, see **Lonnie Clement** of **Tom Weir**.

Committee chairpersons and other committee members are invited to submit articles for publication in the **BLASTOFF**. Articles on committee-sponsored activities, Rotary-affiliated organizations such as Rotoract and Space City Women of Rotary, other clubs (especially our sister

club, the **Aeropuerto Club** in Mexico City), and articles relating to our luncheon programs are especially welcome. Articles can range from one or two sentences to a full page of the **BLAST-OFF**. Polished and rough draft articles are both welcome.



Vic Maria reports that the Christmas toys collected at the December 19, 1988 meeting were delivered to **Jean McKethan** at American Host Hotel for distribution through the United Way and Interfaith Caring Ministries.



SPACE CENTER ROTARY

P.O. Box 58862, Houston, TX 77258

Rotary International President: **Royce Abbey**
District 589 Governor: **Roy Long**
Space Center Rotary Officers & Directors:

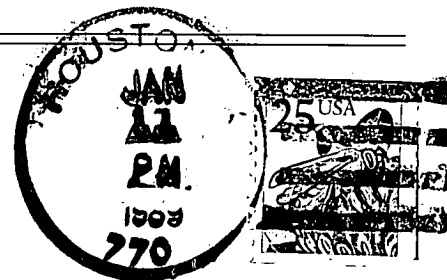
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