



HISTORY 1/75

SPACE CENTER ROTARY CLUB

POST OFFICE BOX 58862
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058

January 16, 1975

TO: Iven Brown
Ellis Bareiss
Past Presidents

FROM: R. D. Chandler, Jr.

SUBJECT: SPACE CENTER ROTARY CLUB HISTORY

Attached for your review and comments is a draft of the club history prepared by Allen Heidbreder, Club Historian.

It will be greatly appreciated if you will review this draft and make appropriate comments. We are particularly interested in obtaining additional information regarding formation of the club and its early history; including newspaper articles of special events, pictures of club activities, etc.

Please feel free to make corrections if you detect any errors in the current writeup. We would also be interested in any recommendations you may have as to how the club history could best be preserved. It is our current thinking to print copies of the history for distribution to all members. In addition, we plan to keep a scrapbook in which special mementoes can be preserved and displayed on appropriate occasions. I would appreciate receiving your comments by March 15 so that this project can be completed and distributed at the end of the Rotary year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R.D. Chandler, Jr.".

R. D. Chandler, Jr.

1974

D R A F T

HISTORY

ROTARY CLUB OF SPACE CENTER
HOUSTON, TEXAS

MEMBER ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Nassau Bay?
We are in Houston?

ORIGIN OF ROTARY

Over fifty years ago, there lived in the city of Chicago a young lawyer who had only a few friends and acquaintances and who felt the pangs of loneliness. His name was Paul P. Harris, and, desiring to extend his circle of acquaintances he conceived the plan of calling together a few men engaged in different lines of business, and explaining to them an idea which had been forming in his mind. His idea was that man is friendly by nature, and that the necessity of earning a livelihood under modern economic conditions should not compel a man to sacrifice his natural instinct to have friends and be friendly. That it should be possible for the man in the city to have business and professional friends as does the man in the small town. Friendship should be, and in reality is, the fundamental basis of a man's business relations with his fellowman. It was believed that a group of men freed from the depressing and restraining influence of economic depression would quickly develop into genuine friends capable of and desiring to be of service to one another, would become broader minded and bigger visioned, because of contact with one another, more successful and efficient in business and therefore better citizens. Paul Harris, accordingly, invited three men of his acquaintance to meet at an office in the Unity Building, Chicago, on the evening of February 23, 1905. Those invited were Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer; H. E. Shorey, a merchant tailor; and Gus H. Loehr, a mining operator. The meeting was informal, and Paul explained his idea to those present, and the formation of a club composed of men each from a different line of business or profession was discussed. It was agreed to meet a week later in the office of Paul Harris.

PLEASE --
MORE INFORMATION,
COMMENTS, AND
CORRECTIONS IN THIS
MARGIN.

General - Perhaps names
of members who were
outstanding --but who??
(in addition to
astronauts)

At the second meeting several other gentlemen were present by invitation and the formation of a club completed. The name of "Rotary" was suggested by Paul Harris for the reason that it was decided to hold the meetings in rotation at the offices of the different members. In the fall of the year 1905, the first dinner of the club was held in the old Sherman House. So came into existence Rotary, and Club No. 1 in Chicago.

In the five years between 1905 and 1910 Rotary grew to 16 clubs within the United States, and expanded to international status with the induction of a club in Canada in 1910. Today's membership includes 14,890 clubs with 704,500 members in 149 countries and geographical locations.

The singular concept of service to one another now has a broader translation to "service above self".

Opportunities for individuals to utilize their talents and pursue their interests exist in four avenues of service: club, vocation, community, and international activities.

SPACE CENTER CLUB

The LaPorte Rotary Club sponsored the Space Center Club and application for a Provisional Club to Rotary International was submitted June 15, 1964, with 35 charter members. A charter was presented to the club by District Governor Edwin G. Bracher during a dinner meeting held at the Houston Yacht Club, Shore Acres, LaPorte, September 28, 1964. President Ivan E. Brown, Space Center, accepted the charter.

The territorial limits for club membership set the following boundary lines:

North: Fairmont Parkway from the intersection of Red Bluff Road to the intersection with the South Belt to Gulf Freeway (U.S. Route 75)

West: Gulf Freeway from South Belt to Clear Creek

South: Clear Creek from Gulf Freeway to Kirby Road

East: Kirby Road from Clear Creek to the intersection of Red Bluff Road and thence northwesterly along Red Bluff Road to Fairmont Parkway.

Ellis R. Bareiss, a special representative of the District Governor, was commissioned to organize a club in the Greater Clear Lake Area. He spent many hours, both day and night seeking qualified candidates for membership.

Original charter certificate not in files. Perhaps copy could be included.

Include map?
In lieu of
description

Pages 3 through 6 are missing from the original documents.

Contributions were made to Paul Harris Fellowship, Girls State - an American Legion Auxiliary program, Pony League, Rotary Youth Forum, and Corpus Christi Disaster Fund.

What year? 1970?

Pages

3-6
over

-- 1971 --

70-71

20,000 stickers for Crisis Hotline were printed for distribution and the telephone company agreed to the assignment of a hotline. A new design for the banner was approved.

Space Center car raffle ticket sales started March 1 at \$100.00 each. A Chevrolet Caprice and Vega were the prizes to winning tickets. The raffle was held during a dinner at the Kings Inn and the net profit was \$2,028.00. The Board moved to make this an annual affair, but enthusiasm for further participation was lacking.

40,000 vitamins were air-transported to Santiago, Chile for school children. Donations were made to Girls State, Clear Lake Youth Ecology study, Rotary Foundation, Bayshore YMCA, AAU Swim meet at Glenbrook, International Youth Project and World Community Service, Boy Scouts, Interact, Library Scholarships, Community Environment, Career Day, Freeman Library, and YMCA.

70-71

Rotary International Convention was held in Houston during May. Space Center Club sponsored International Kids Day with a trip for 1000 in 24 buses to the San Jacinto Monument, Manned Space Center, and a picnic lunch at the Harris County Clear Lake Park.

June 1972
71-72

The price of club luncheons increased from \$2.50 to \$3.00. Coffee "Drinkers" are increasing in numbers at luncheon meetings. A 25¢ charge per person for "Kitty for Coffee" is the price of admission to this unique club of weight watchers.

Chizavology states 2000

71-72

-- 1972 --

71-72

The Clear Lake High School Choral Group was awarded a trip to Vienna, Austria to participate (in what?). Space Center made a contribution to their expense fund during a program that this group presented for the club.

71-72
Ends

72-73
Space Center Rotary posthumously awarded its first Paul Harris Fellowship to Harry Smith, following his death in August, 1972. He was a charter member of the club, and his activities are best described by a quote from a tribute as written by Gene Lindquist.

"For the past nine years Harry Smith became widely known in the Clear Lake and Houston areas because of his untiring efforts to help out in many civic programs and for the tremendous part he played in the development of Clear Lake City, an Humble Oil and Friendswood Development Company project....."

72-73
"During these years he was actively engaged in serving many worthwhile civic endeavors. He was a charter member of the Space Center Rotary Club and served as a Director for 1971-72, a charter member of the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce Blue Coat Committee and its chairman in 1971-72. He was also elected to the Chamber's Board for a three year term, 1971-74."

He was a longtime member of the Houston Live Stock Show and Rodeo and each year took large part in the general overall stock show activities. He helped organize the Stock Show's "GO-TEXAN" Committee and for several years was chairman of the NASA-Clear Lake Area "GO-TEXAN" Committee, and was very active on the Lamb Auction Committee for the Stock Show."

Harry's wife, Pat, received this award during a luncheon meeting (date _____)

--1973--

Space Center was host to District 589 Conference held April 6 and 7 at the Sheraton Kings Inn. Governor George DeMontrond presided with Rex Bailey as Chairman for the Conference.

72-73

what year

-- 1974 --

This year can best be expressed as the 10th Anniversary of Space Center Rotary, and the first annual Shrimp Boil and Auction. 73-74

A group of Rotarians headed by Ben Andrews from the Brazosport Club initiated this event as a sponsor. President Rex Bailey appointed an ad hoc committee in December, 1973, to study the feasibility of such a project. 73-74

The Committee report to the Board early in 1974 stated that 100% participation by club members was necessary to insure success for the project. Some sixteen committees were required in planning, procurement, preparation, and finally, clean-up. Activities were to start two months prior to the event. 73-74

~~Brazosport's 10 years of success and a net profit of approximately \$10,000 for 1973, with that club's members willing to furnish manpower and recipes, was apparently all the encouragement the Board needed to vote "for" this event.~~

This was billed as an outstanding fun and fund raising project, and indeed it was, with membership participation beyond all expectations. Galveston County Park (League City) was selected as the site, July 20 as the date. Local merchants and individuals were most generous in donating auction items. DYHYSBTY (Do You Have Your Shrimp Boil Tickets Yet) badges appeared.

The principal beneficiary for the year was the Clear Lake City Emergency Medical Corp, with the remaining anticipated profits to other current beneficiaries as follows:

- American Field Service
- Boy Scouts of America
- Earth Awareness Foundation
- NASA Little League
- Freeman Memorial Library
- Bay Area YMCA
- American Legion Auxiliary (Girls State)
- Clear Creek Art League Scholarship
- Harris County Youth Village

Approximately 3,000 dinners were served and the net profit was \$7,000. Thus, by any standard of measurement, the event was a huge success and destined to become the club's annual fund raising project. The Medical Corp received \$3,500 for a high-dome ambulance cover. Rex Bailey ended his term successfully and Dick Chandler started his without apologies.

Need exact figure
Profit & Contribution

74-28
Space Center's 10th Anniversary was celebrated during a dinner held in the Lakewood Yacht Club October 5. Dr. Alfred Newman presided as Master of Ceremonies and one of his remarks of interest was that the club had started with 35 charter members, 328 have been inducted, and 208 members have been lost, with a present roster of 120 members. The turnover has been largely due to membership being from a transient aerospace industry personnel rather than lack of interest in Rotary.

Special honored guests included Ellis R. Bareiss, founder of the Space Center Club. Presently he resides in Austin, Texas, is a member of South Austin Club, and has a perfect attendance record of 28 years. Ivan E. Brown, first President of Space Center, served two terms - 1964 & 1966 - and presently resides in Jackson, Tennessee. George Shults was guest speaker and is a past District Governor. Other Past District Governors present and introduced were Wayne Holland, Ed House, and Ernest Upham.

What were their
remarks?--
Bareiss & Brown

G. Shults remarks?

Ten-year Perfect Attendance Awards were given to Dick Allen, Frank Morgan, and Gene Lindquist.

Announcement of Paul Harris Fellows awards to two of our club members was the surprise for the evening. The Board was commended in their selection of Martin Gracey and Harry Jennings. Martin received his award for 10 years of outstanding contributions in club service and his many civic endeavors. Harry received his for 9 years as Secretary for the club.

Picture of Birthday Cake
Other pictures.

Attendance of meetings before Christmas and New Years is minimal and guest speakers are difficult to obtain. The last two meetings in 1973 were declared holidays by the club, but the District Office vetoed the proceedings. December 30, 1974, was billed as a

fellowship song fest. The Program Committee provided a champagne luncheon. The sparkling stuff produced a variety of toasts, including Martin Gracey in Gallic, Al Newman in German, and Lionel Garcia in Spanish. Rev. Dean Woodruff read an unusual horoscope for several of the members present.

A LIST OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS WILL BE ADDED

A LIST OF ROTARY FELLOWS SPONSORED BY SPACE CENTER
ROTARY CLUB WILL BE ADDED