



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Tom Wier

Welcome to the time of your life!

That's what participation in Space Center Rotary Club can mean to you. The Red Badge program in our club developed out of the realization that the things you are asked to do will make you a "happier camper" and the club a more effective group. Some things have to be experienced to be appreciated.

Here you are thrust in the middle of a sizeable group (of reasonably respectable people but most of whom you probably don't know) and you are expected to get to know them and even to like a lot of them. True, but we have a formula! It's called working together for the good of someone else. We call it "Service Above Self". But the key element is working together. It is a time-proven, double-reinforced, gold-plated fact that working on a project together is the best, most enjoyable way to get to know others and to build friendships. -- And you are about to meet "The Project".

Our biggest FUN-RAISING, FUND-RAISING project of the year is the Shrimporee, a shrimp boiling, fish frying, bean cooking, slaw chomping feeding frenzy with a mammoth sweet booth and auction with draft beer all rolled into one and coordinated with a fun run, golf tournament, beauty contest, "to name a few". Every, repeat every, member is expected to find a role in this event. No exceptions! You will be glad you did your part, although your tail may be dragging by the end of the day. And you will find you have a new and happy relationship with that "sizeable group of reasonably respectable people" that you see on Mondays for lunch.

You see, the money raised in this event usually fuels all of our worthy projects for the year. There are usually 35-40 committees working just on different aspects of the Shrimporee. The work is divided enough ways that it leaves time for having fun. These are short term ad hoc committees and are not to be confused with the standing committees of the club. Everybody will be assigned to a Shrimporee task. You can choose what you want to do, so volunteer now (since it is rumored that those not volunteering may be assigned to the cleanup committee--and there really is one!).

We couldn't put this event on if we didn't sell meal tickets and didn't solicit auction items from merchants who welcome the publicity. Those are two things that need to be done ahead of time. It is hard for some of us to bring ourselves to take the time and effort for this. But let's swallow hard and get on with it. Remember it's "Service Above Self". --And those "reasonably respectable people" are waiting to shake your hand.