



Announcing the Disaster Preparedness OK/HELP Poster

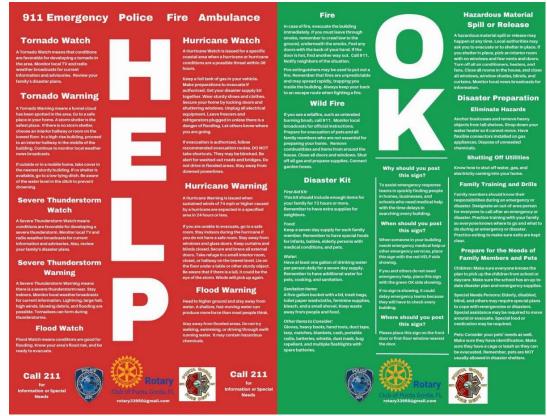
Wednesday, August 30, 2023

Punta Gorda Rotary is proud to announce the September release of its Disaster Preparedness OK/HELP Poster. The two-sided poster is a valuable resource for individuals, families, and businesses. It provides information to prepare for various disasters and to let first responders know if you, your family, or your business is OK or needs HELP.

As we all know, disasters can strike unexpectedly and cause immense disruption and endanger lives. The Disaster Preparedness OK/HELP Poster aims to address this vulnerability by providing an easy way to alert first responders and neighbors if you need help or are okay. It covers easy-to-understand actions you can take in the face of various emergencies, including natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes, as well as human-made disasters like fires and accidental poisonings.

The Disaster Preparedness OK/HELP Poster is endorsed by the City of Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments, who are supporting our Rotary Club in distributing the FREE posters throughout the community. This is a significant collaborative effort by Punta Gorda Rotary and our City partners in law enforcement, fire prevention, and disaster mitigation. It is supported by a matching grant from the District 6960 Disaster Preparedness Fund,

We will have posters available at the club lunch meetings for the next several weeks, and they will be available at various city and community center locations in Punta Gorda. Rotarians are asked to distribute them in their neighborhoods and elsewhere in the city.





Club Meeting Place & Time

Punta Gorda Rotary Meets at ISLES YACHT CLUB, 1780 W Marion Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

Club Officers



<u>Laura C Knutson</u> Treasurer - Assistant



Peter R Wilkins President



James C. Williams
President-Elect
Public Relations Chair
International Service
Chair



Stephen J. Goettler Secretary



Alyson Burch Treasurer Past President



<u>Arnie Eastburn</u> Bulletin Editor



<u>Breven Baima</u> Sergeant-at-Arms



Charles F Marlowe
Rotary Foundation Chair

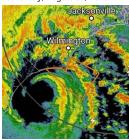


Rosa Benghtt Club Programs Chair

Donna Calderon

Help after Hurricane Idalia

Wednesday, August 30, 2023



Our District 6960 is collecting funds through its Disaster Preparedness Fund to help people and communities effected by Hurricane Idalia. If you would like to make a contribution you can do it online through PayPal, or by writing a check and mailing it.

Please go to RotaryFL.org or take the following actions.

Information To Send A Check

Make the check payable to: The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch? Mail the check to:

The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch Hurricane Idalia Relief 8374 Market Street, #449 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202-5137 USA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION TO ROTARY DISTRICT 6960 COLLECTED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF LAKEWOOD RANCH TO HELP VICTIMS OF HURRICANE IAN.

We use PayPal to process our donations.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=WFLXDBUJXLESA

We use PayPal to process our donations. You do NOT need a PayPal account to donate using a credit card You do NOT need to create a PayPal account

Note: The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch is a 501(c)3. Its tax ID # is 65-1119411.

New Member Spotlight

By Darcy Hanley on Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Welcome Jon Duszunski – Inducted June 15, 2023!

Jon comes from McHenry, IL. He enjoys golf, boating and just relaxing by the pool. In some of his spare time he also enjoys home improvement projects and watching movies. He used to ride motorcycles but recently retired his bike. If Jon could travel anywhere, he would head to Thailand and the beautiful islands around Phuket.

Jon and his wife Vanessa chose Punta Gorda for several reasons: first, they were only interested in the Gulf coast, since the East side of Florida just didn't fit us. Secondly, it is the only area they could have access to water that was affordable for us, and third, Punta Gorda is a real town with a downtown area and has all the amenities they need. This differentiates Punta Gorda from the Cape, which has no real "town center.

Furthermore, Punta Gorda is unique because of its location on Charlotte Harbor with fishing and boating activities.

Jon is new to Rotary and is already involved with the grant review committee and wants to be involved with the Club's Foundation Board.

The Labor Day Fish Fry

By John S. Dzurak, August 21, 2023



From the 1950s until 2002, our Club's major annual fundraising event was the Labor Day Fish Fry. Each year, at Gilchrist Park, we would sell fried mullet, hush puppies, and cole slaw dinners. Like the Taste of Punta Gorda, the Fish Fry was labor-intensive. Elaborate set up, cases of local fresh mullet, deep fryers, live music, etc. It took every Rotarian to work it. But, it was a popular event that drew big crowds. Every other year was an Election Year. Candidates from all over Charlotte County made it a point to hob nob and "pollitick" with the crowd. Cooler heads eventually prevailed. It was just too hot to deep fry mullet all day on Labor Day! Believe me, I used to fry fish! Soon, the Annual Testimonial Dinner replaced it in November.

Our other major fundraiser was the primo location of our hot dog and hamburger stand (corner of Marion and Taylor) during the annual Punta Gorda Block Party.

The first Block Party was held in 1987 to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Punta Gorda. The headlining act for the first Block Party was Minnie Pearl.

Rotarian Bill Richards was a retired engineer and Mayor of Punta Gorda. Bill built this elaborate stand for us for



Nancy A Johnson Community Service Chair



<u>Ed Davis</u> Vocational Service Chair



<u>Darcy Hanley</u> Youth Services Chair



Charles F Marlowe
Area Governor Area 6

Punta Gorda Rotary **Charity and Education Foundation**



<u>Paul F. Blaine</u> Member



Darcy Hanley Chair



<u>Nancy A Johnson</u> Member



<u>Paul V. Lioon</u> Member



<u>Charles D. Marsee</u> Vice-Committee Chair



Douglas Morey Secretary



achlan C Smith



<u>Peter R Wilkins</u> Member



James C. Williams

Meetings and Events

September 13th Punta Gorda Rotary Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, Hurricane Charley's, 7 A.M.

September 14th Punta Gorda Weekly Club

MeetingSpeaker: Jeff Berg, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau

September 21st Punta Gorda Weekly Club

MeetingSpeaker: Kellie Dunson Allen Subject: Charlotte County

our booth. It was made from about one hundred different-sized pieces of painted wood that fit together like a gigantic Lego puzzle. The problem was that Bill was the only guy who could put it together! After he died, all these big Lego pieces sat in our Ann Street storage unit for years.

Habitat for Humanity
September 28th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club
MeetingSpeaker: George Lewis and
Ruth Bowling

Create Hope for Maui

Tuesday, August 15, 2023



August 9, 2023 was a tragic day for Rotarians, families and friends on the Island of Maui. The fires across the island have changed lives forever. Truly devastating. Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted.

As people of action, we can take immediate action. As we come together to recover and rebuild, we need to support each other. We need to Create Hope for Maui.

Through the Rotary District 5000 Foundation, a relief fund has been established. Foundation President Dave Hamil and Treasurer Sharon Amano will handle all donations. A committee will be organized shortly to find the greatest needs for distribution of monies. A single fund will be the most helpful over time to provide the most significant benefits.

Please consider donating to this special fund, Maui Fires Relief Fund.

Thank you for any support you can give!

Mark Merriam, District Governor Rotary District 5000, Hawaii, USA

Peddle Through the Park

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

In case you missed it, Darcy Hanley represented Rotary at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's Peddle Through the Park event at the end of July. Other volunteers from CHEC, TEAM Punta Gorda, and other groups joined in the celebration of youth and nature. And the kids got prizes, including a couple of new bikes! Don't you wish you'd volunteered to help out?





August Happenings at the Club

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

Melissa Suarez, our club's exchange student to Japan, returned after a wonderful year abroad to share some stories and to present a flag from her club in Japan, the Fukuoka Hei Sei RC, to President Peter Wilkins, in exchange for our club's flag.





On the left, Christine Carey, Director, Angela Melvin, Founder and CEO of Valerie's House, gave a wonderful presentation announcing the new Valerie's House location in Punta Gorda. They and everyone in our club applauded Robert Thompson, guest Rotarian visiting from the Simi Valley RC, who gave a \$1,000 check to Angela and Christine.

On the right, Darcy Hanley presented Christine Zimmer, Executive Director of the Gildstead Literacy Foundation (aka The Charlotte County Imagination Library) with a \$1,000 check to provide books for kids.





District Leaders from Punta Gorda Rotary

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

In the left photo, Kati Wallace, outgoing Area 6 Assistant District Governor, presented incoming Area 6 AG,

Chuck Marlowe, with the Area Governor's flag. Chuck has been hard a work assisting DG Alfred Current, visiting all the clubs in our area and shepherding good ideas for us all.

On the right, Chuck is with James Williams's spouse, Penelope Mayer, at the District Emerging Leaders Program social event hosted by David Lusty, of the Venice Suncoast RC. Chuck, James, and Brad Gamblin are representing Punta Gorda Rotary in this new program sponsored by the District. Some 25 Rotarians from the District are participating.





Sign up to work on the Healing Field of Honor

Thursday, July 27, 2023



Laishley Park, Punta Gorda, Veterans Day Weekend, Nov 10-12

Sponsors

Local businesses are encouraged to join us in honoring our nation's fallen heroes, as well as all veterans, first responders, and all everyday heroes.

For information, please contact us at:

rotary33950@gmail.co m



Buy a Flag

Purchase one or more American flags for the Healing Field of Honor. Anyone can purchase flags with 8' pole for \$40 each and dedicate them to their own heroes.

www.facebook.com /PGHFOH

All proceeds benefit the Punta Gorda Rotary Charity & Education Foundation, 501(c)3, which supports local, regional, international charitable projects and activities.

Announcements Tuesday, August 15, 2023

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION. There will be a new member Orientation on **Tuesday**, **September 12 at 5PM**. New and transfer members are encouraged to attend. Also, it would be great if committee chairs and board members (club and foundation) could attend as well. The location is TBD after it is confirmed.

CLUB FOUNDATION 1st QUARTER GRANT DEADLINE. If you would like to submit a grant to a deserving organization in our community for consideration in the first quarter round of grants, the deadline is **September 15**. The grant application is downloadable at https://puntagordarotary.org/rotary-foundation/. Return the form to Darcy Hanley, Chairperson of the Grants Review Committee.

PUNTA GORDA CHAMBER BREAKFAST. Our club will be hosting the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce members for a breakfast at Hurrican Charley's at **7 AM, Wednesday, September 13**. Wear your colors and let's have a great turnout for the Chamber members, all of whom are our potential members.