



Rotary

Club of Punta Gorda



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.

911 Emergency Police Fire Ambulance

Tornado Watch

A Tornado Watch means that conditions are favorable for developing a tornado in the area. Monitor local TV and radio weather broadcasts for current information and advisories. Review your family's disaster plans.

Tornado Warning

A Tornado Warning means a funnel cloud has been spotted in the area. Go to a safe place in your home. A storm shelter is the safest place. If there is no storm shelter, choose an interior hallway or room on the lowest floor. In a high-rise building, proceed to an interior hallway in the middle of the building. Continue to monitor local weather news broadcasts.

If outside or in a mobile home, take cover in the nearest sturdy building. If no shelter is available, get to a low-lying ditch. Be aware of the water level in the ditch to prevent drowning.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch

A Severe Thunderstorm Watch means conditions are favorable for developing a severe thunderstorm. Monitor local TV and radio weather broadcasts for current information and advisories. Also, review your family's disaster plans.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning means there is a severe thunderstorm near. Stay indoors. Monitor local weather broadcasts for current information. Lightning, large hail, high winds, blowing debris, and flooding are possible. Tornadoes can form during thunderstorms.

Flood Watch

Flood Watch means conditions are good for flooding. Know your area's flood risk, and be ready to evacuate.

HELP

Hurricane Watch

A Hurricane Watch is issued for a specific coastal area when a hurricane or tropical storm is possible there within 36 hours.

Keep a full tank of gas in your vehicle. Make preparations to evacuate if authorized. Get your disaster supply kit together. Wear sturdy shoes and clothes. Secure your home by locking doors and shuttering windows. Unplug all electrical equipment. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a danger of flooding. Let others know where you are going.

If evacuation is authorized, follow recommended evacuation routes. DO NOT take shortcuts. They may be blocked. Be alert for washed out roads and bridges. Do not drive in flooded areas. Stay away from downed power lines.

Hurricane Warning

A Hurricane Warning is issued when sustained winds of 74 mph or higher caused by a hurricane are expected in a specified area in 24 hours or less.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to a safe room. Stay indoors during the hurricane. If you do not have a safe room, stay away from windows and glass doors. Keep curtains and blinds closed. Secure and brace all external doors. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level. Lie on the floor under a table or other sturdy object. Be aware that if there is a leak, it could be the eye of the storm. Winds will pick up again.

Flood Warning

Head to higher ground and stay away from water. A shallow, fast moving water can produce more force than most people think.

Stay away from flooded areas. Do not try walking, swimming, or driving through swift running water. It may contain hazardous chemicals.

OK

Fire

In case of fire, evacuate the building immediately. If you must leave through smoke, remember to crawl low to the ground, underneath the smoke. Feel any doors with the back of your hand. If the door is hot, find another way out. Call 911. Notify neighbors of the situation.

Fire extinguishers may be used to put out a fire. Remember that fires are unpredictable and may spread rapidly, trapping you inside the building. Always keep your back to an escape route when fighting a fire.

Wild Fire

If you see a wildfire, such as an unattended burning brush, call 911. Monitor local broadcasts for official instructions. Prepare for evacuation of pets and all family members who are not essential for preparing your home. Remove combustibles and items from around the house. Close all doors and windows. Shut off all gas and propane supplies. Connect garden hoses.

Disaster Kit

Have at least one gallon of drinking water per person daily for a seven-day supply. Remember to have additional water for pets, cooking, and sanitation.

Sanitation items: A five-gallon bucket with a lid, trash bags, toilet paper, washcloths, feminine supplies, bleach, and a small shovel. Keep waste away from people and food.

Other items to consider: gloves, heavy boots, hand tools, duct tape, tarp, matches, blankets, cash, portable radio, batteries, whistle, dust mask, bug repellent, and multiple flashlights with spare batteries.

Hazardous Material Spill or Release

A hazardous material spill or release may happen at any time. Local authorities may ask you to evacuate or to shelter in place. If you shelter in place, pick an interior room with no windows and few vents and doors. Turn off all air conditioners, heaters, and fans. Close all rooms in the house, and close all windows, window shades, blinds, and curtains. Monitor local news broadcasts for information.

Disaster Preparation

Eliminate Hazards

Anchor bookcases and remove heavy objects from tall shelves. Strap down your water heater so it cannot move. Have flexible connectors installed on gas appliances. Dispose of unneeded chemicals.

Shutting Off Utilities

Know how to shut off water, gas, and electricity coming into your home.

Family Training and Drills

Family members should know their responsibilities during an emergency or disaster. Designate an out-of-area person for everyone to call after an emergency or disaster. Practice training with your family so everyone knows where to go and what to do during an emergency or disaster. Practice exiting to make sure exits are kept clear.

Prepare for the Needs of Family Members and Pets

Children: Make sure everyone knows the plan to pick up the children from school or daycare. Make sure the school has an up-to-date disaster plan and emergency supplies.

Special Needs Persons: Elderly, disabled, blind, and others may require special plans to cope with emergencies or disasters. Special assistance may be required to move around or evacuate. Special food or medication may be required.

Pets: Consider your pet's needs as well. Make sure they have identification. Make sure they have a cage or leash so they can be evacuated. Remember, pets are NOT usually allowed in disaster shelters.

Call 211 for Information or Special Needs

Rotary Club of Punta Gorda, FL
rotary3395@gmail.com

Call 211 for Information or Special Needs



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



Laura C. Knutson
Treasurer - Assistant



Peter R. Wilkins
President



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



Stephen J. Goettler
Secretary



Alyson Burch
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Breven Baima
Sergeant-at-Arms



Charles F. Marlowe
Rotary Foundation Chair



Rosa Bengt
Club Programs Chair

Donna Calderon
Club Service Chair

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](https://www.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



[Ed Davis](#)
Vocational Service Chair



[Darcy Hanley](#)
Youth Services Chair



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Area Governor Area 6



Punta Gorda Rotary Charity and Education Foundation



[Paul F. Blaine](#)
Member



[Darcy Hanley](#)
Chair



[Nancy A. Johnson](#)
Member



[Paul V. Lioon](#)
Member



[Charles D. Marsee](#)
Vice-Committee Chair



[Douglas Morey](#)
Secretary



[Lachlan C. Smith](#)
Assistant Treasurer



[Peter R. Wilkins](#)
Member



[James C. Williams](#)
Treasurer

Meetings and Events

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

September 14th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club
Meeting Speaker: Jeff Berg, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau

September 21st
Punta Gorda Weekly Club
Meeting Speaker: 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
Meeting Speaker: 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 at 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



Rotary
Club of Punta Gorda FL



**HEALING FIELD
OF HONOR®**

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.com



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 Hurracan 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.

