



**HISTORY**

**EAU GALLIE ROTARY CLUB**

**1966 - 1998**

THIS HISTORY HAS BEEN WRITTEN WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF  
MEMBERS, CLUB RECORDS, INTERVIEWS AND MEMORY.

FACTS, DATES AND FIGURES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE  
REASONABLY ACCURATE.

R.D. RICHARDS

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Historian wants to take this opportunity to express thanks to all the Rotarians who so graciously contributed facts and figures to this historical project. Rotarian Henry Phelps assisted with the typing and editing. Rotarian Doug Sedgwick contributed time and materials in the printing and presentation. Without their assistance this project would not be possible.

IN MEMORY OF

BILL McALLISTER  
LOREN BURGESS  
BRUCE GRAHAM  
DICK DUPREE  
GLEN NOYES  
MAURICE BOYD  
BILL PURVIS  
HORACE REESE  
JOEL SATTERFIELD  
W.G. DOC, STRAWBRIDGE  
WILLIAM STEEL  
FRANK CUTRONA  
T.W. "BILL" LANGSTROTH

We pause to remember these great Rotarians who passed away while actively participating as Eau Gallie Rotarians.

Bill McAllister as a dynamic President 1973-74.

Dick Dupree as Secretary 1978-79.

Loren Burgess as our friendly pipe smoking banker.

Bruce Graham as our forceful educator with words of wisdom for all.

Glen Noyes as our Salvation Army holiday volunteer.

Maurice Boyd, our piano player.

Bill Purvis, our soft spoken volunteer.

Horace Reese, A cornerstone of Eau Gallie Rotary.

Joel Satterfield, A true example of what a Rotarian should be.

W.G. Doc., Strawbridge, "Please don't forget the Henegar Center."

William Steel, "I can do that."

Frank Cutrona, "Let's just find a way."

Bill Langstroth, Club Secretary for five years, Our First Five Years.

Respectively, we also remember past President John Cates 1974-75, who passed on after leaving our Club and Rotary. He also served as our first Historian.

## PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

STEVE ALLGEYER	VERONICA O'BRIEN
GEORGE ALTO	GLENN PAINTER
WILLIAM M. ANDERSON	FERNANDO M. PALACIOS
ANN L. ANTHONY	H. HENRY PHELPS
DONALD ANTHONY	MARTHA L. PHELPS
EGBERT BAGG IV	ROB PICKETT
CHRIS BERRY	PATRICK J. PONDER
YVONNE BIXBY	WILLIAM PURVIS
DEBBIE BRADLEY	HORACE REESE
KEITH CHANDLER	SUBASH REGE
CAMILLA CUTRONA	ROBERT M. RENFRO
FRANK CUTRONA	RONNIE D. RICHARDS
CHAD DHORTE	THOMAS RICHARDS
FLOYD W. DICKERSON	MICHAEL ROACH
JOHN DOWNS	WALTER ROBINSON
OSCAR DUPRE	JOHN ROURK
RICHARD FANT	C. JOEL SATTERFIELD, SR.
BRIAN FISHER	DOUGLASS SEDGWICK
HOPE FISHER	KEN SHEAFFER
DIANE FORSYTH	GRACE SHEAFFER
BRUCE GRAHAM	JASON SHEAFFER
CHARLES GIFFORD	WESLEE SHEAFFER
NELSON HAMILTON	ANNA SHEAFFER
LYLE R. HENRY	DENNIS SHEPPARD
HANK HURLEY	RAY SINGLETARY
GRANT HUSSEL, JR.	J. ALEXANDER SISSERSON
KEN JENKINS	JAMES A. SISSERSON
ROBERT JOHNSON	JANEILLE SISSERSON
CARSON JUSTICE	PHYLLIS STRAWBRIDGE
MARK KEESECKER	WILLIAM STEELE
JOE LANGLOIS	ROBERT STITZEL
T. W. LANGSTROTH	W. G. STRAWBRIDGE
WILLIAM R. LATIMER	JANE ANN SUTHERLAND
KATE MAXNER	JAY SUTHERLAND
ELMER W. MCALLISTER	AL THOMAS
JIM MCGOVERN	WILLIAM VAN ZANTE
LUKE MIORELLI	DOUGLAS C. VANDER POEST
DAN MIXSON	PATRICIA L. VANDER POEST
DOMENICO M. MONTALTO	ROBERT WASSON
RICHARD S. MOSELEY	OSCAR WEBSTER
CHARLIE MULLINS	STEPHEN WEBSTER
TIMOTHY NETZLEY	KURT C. WEISS
GLENN NOYES	EUGENE WILHELM
CLETUS F. O'BRIEN, JR.	LARRY A. WILLIAMS
RUTH M. O'BRIEN	EDGAR J. ZORN

## PAST PRESIDENTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
George Alto	66-67
Joel Satterfield	67-68
Oscar Webster	68-69
Jack Finger	69-70
Jack Clark	70-71
Jack Burklew	71-72
Jim Whitley	72-73
Bill McAllister	73-74
John Cates	74-75
Dom Montalto	75-76
Mike Gatto	76-77
Ed Zom	77-78
Dan Richards	78-79
Dennis Sheppard	79-80
Grant Hussel	80-81
Lyle Henry	81-82
Gene Wilhelm	82-83
Pat Ponder	83-84
Earle Seaverns	84-85
Bob Wasson	85-86
Ray Singletary	86-87
Tim Netzley	87-88
Luke Miorelli	88-89
Don Anthony	89-90
Doug Vander Poest	90-91
Bryan Fisher	91-92
Henry Phelps	92-93
Jim Sisserson	93-94
Jay Sutherland	94-95
Mike Renfro	95-96
Scooter Webster	96-97
Bill Van Zante	97-98

**CHARTER MEMBERS**

**STILL ACTIVE**

Oscar Webster

During the early 60's, the City of Melbourne, had the only Rotary Club in South Brevard. The Melbourne, Club accomplished much during the mid 60's. The most notable accomplishment to the benefit of the Club and to Rotary International was the introduction of high school students to Rotary through a locally organized effort of leadership and service that resulted in the birth of Interact. Interact has grown nationally to an organization of several thousand high school students throughout the United States.

Another significant accomplishment of the Melbourne Rotary Club came through the challenge of Fred DeHorn, then District Governor of 699, 1964- 1965, which resulted in their first offspring, the Eau Gallie Rotary Club. This monumental milestone in South Brevard Rotary was accomplished by a dedicated Club, a district governor with foresight, and a young energetic Melbourne Rotarian, George Alto, who was elected to investigate the possibility of an Eau Gallie Club. George worked diligently during early 1964, talking Rotary and interviewing individuals he felt worthy of the task at hand. With great fortune and maybe even the divine guidance of Paul Harris, George came upon two gracious gentlemen, one by the name of Bill Altman who served and moved on, and the other, our very own Bill Langstroth who lived and breathed Eau Gallie Rotary from the very beginning and was until his death an Eau Gallie Rotarian. During 1964-1965, George, Bill Altman and Bill Langstroth laid the ground work for forming a new Club. These men, working together with the incoming District Governor Natie Taylor, 1965-1966, and with the diligent leadership of his group representative Woody Bowden, assembled 28 prospective members. In November of 1965, an application was submitted to Rotary International as a formal request for charter.

The Eau Gallie Club began meeting as a provisional Club the first week of January, 1966. The provisional Board of Directors included:

George Alto, President

Bill Altman, Vice-President

Bill Langstroth, Secretary

Wayne Hefner, Treasurer

Directors: Chet Patten, Hugh Evans

Bud Poteet, Horace Reese and Jim Davis

Charles McCleod replaced Wayne Hefner

The charter of the Eau Gallie Rotary Club was received in March 1966. The provisional officers and Board of Directors were unanimously elected to serve out the years 1966-1967.

It is notable at this point to mention an individual who took his new oath of "service above self" quite seriously, Bill Langstroth, the Eau Gallie Clubs' first secretary. He continued in this position for five years to ensure that things were done right in the Eau Gallie Rotary Club.

1967- 1971 The following presided over our first four years:

1967-1968 Joel Satterfield

1968-1969 Oscar Webster

1969-1970 Jack Finger

1970-1971 Jack Clark

During this period the Club increased its membership and moved forward with zeal and enthusiasm.

Fund raising to meet our growing budget of commitments for the many community affairs for which we became involved, became a real challenge. Thus, the famous Eau Gallie Rotary fish fry was born, which netted us a whopping \$280.00 net profit.

During this era, our Club embarked on the following projects to help meet the needs of our community: Beautification of the Causeway; Help for the Newly Organized Volunteer Ambulance Service; Commenced our annual Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ringing, and organized our First Interact Club at Eau Gallie High School.

This period also brought about the musical chair saga of where is the meeting place this week? We changed our meeting place four times. We started out at the Pines in January 1966. In April, we moved to the Red Rooster, which closed three short months later. We then moved to the Host of America until November, after which we moved back to the Pines. Yes, all in one year.

1971-1975 The following presided over our next four years:

1971-1972 Jack Burklew

1972-1973 Jim Whitley

1973-1974 Bill McAllister

1974-1975 John Cates



During this period, the Club became more and more active in all aspects of Rotary within the district, national and internationally. The Club displayed its' enthusiasm by sending a significant number of delegates to both the district and national conventions. The enthusiasm and fellowship of our Club became obvious to the district and we were recognized as a leader and model Club for District 699.

A noticeable increase in community affairs participation and a substantial increase in charitable contributions resulted from the obvious growth and the increased experience of the members during these years. Our fish fry net profits soared to a record \$740.00. This record, however, didn't last long, we had the idea of buying fish directly from the fishermen and training members to be fish cleaners. This enabled us to reduce our cost significantly and to increase our net profit to a new record of \$1,012.00.

It was also during this period that our Club developed a keen awareness of the Rotary Foundation and made a concerted effort to increase our contribution to at least \$ 1,000 per year to the foundation. This resulted in a Board of Directors vote to fund our first Paul Harris Fellow Award. Another milestone was reached when the Club unanimously voted to honor Bill Langstroth for his faithful and devoted service to Rotary by naming him our first "Paul Harris Fellow." This was the beginning of what the Club accepted as an annual commitment to the Foundation.

In 1975, we launched two new fund raisers. We started an annual flea market and a hot dog concession at the Indialantic Art Show. These two new ventures netted the Club \$1,620.00.

Once again, during the 70's, we packed our two ton piano which we somehow adopted and moved back to the Red Rooster. We stayed at this location until we closed it and moved to the English Pub in 1973. It was during this move that the famous Rotary piano became a fixed liability and a monument to the ingenuity of Jack Burklew.

1975-1980 The following presided over our Rotary Club:

1975-1976 Don Montalto

1976-1977 Mike Gatto

1977-1978 Ed Zorn

1978-1979 Dan Richards

1979-1980 Dennis Sheppard

During these five years, our Club grew in both size and stature. The increased receipts from our new successful fund raisers enabled the Club to further emphasize Rotary service and principles. The Club was catapulted into prominence in District 699. In the year 1978-1979, a major accomplishment was achieved when our own Jack Burklew was elected District Governor of District 699. This was a very distinct honor for our Club and an appropriate reward to a very deserving Rotarian.

It is appropriate at this point to recognize the sincere devotion and service of Jack to our Club, to our district and to Rotary International. He inspired us all and was a key factor in moulding and shaping the type of Club we have become.

During Governor Jack's term (1978-1979) Ed Zorn served as District 699 Treasurer and Don Montalto served as District Secretary. It is once again notable in our history that because of their exceptional service that both Ed Zorn and Don Montalto were unanimously reelected to serve another term in their respective offices. They served that year with District Governor Paul Popavich of Melbourne.

It was during this period that a new and very exciting fund raiser called "Octoberfest" was created by our Club. Lyle Henry single handedly started and successfully accomplished our first beer concession on the grounds of F.I.T. The rest of the Club was in Boca Raton for a command performance to nominate Jack for Governor at the Rotary Assembly. Grant Hussel made the mistake of not going to Boca so he became Lyle's muscle man at Octoberfest. The new venture was so successful that we got out of the fish, flea and junk business. The Octoberfest became our primary source of revenue.

Participation in the Rotary Foundation flourished during these years. We had at least one Paul Harris Fellow each year and by 1980, we had increased that to two per year.

1980-1985 The following presided over the next five years:

1980-1981 Grant Hussel

1981-1982 Lyle Henry

1982-1983 Gene Wilhelm

1983-1984 Pat Ponder

1984-1985 Earle Seaverns

The very successful Octoberfest generated increasing profits, and that along with funds from other fund raisers enabled us to become major financial contributor to many civic organizations and a key factor in many civic projects. Although we became very active in major projects, we still managed after 10 years to retain the Salvation Army Bell presented to the top fund raising organization during the Christmas Bell Ringing.

We moved once again in 1981. To fill a campaign promise, president elect Lyle Henry moved us into a saloon on U.S. 1. This was the only place that would take us and a red, white & blue piano. We closed the saloon in 1983, sold the piano to the high bidder at the flea market and moved to the Elks Club. We experienced considerable growth during these years. Our peak membership of 73 was reached in 1984. We sponsored two new Rotary Clubs. One in Palm Bay and the other in Suntree. Our budgets for the 1980's averaged \$18,000.00 per year. This represented a significant increase from our annual average budget of \$1,500.00 in the 60's.

We became a major contributor to the Foundation during these years. We actively supported Foundation Student Awards, Group Study Exchange and the Homestay Program.

The annual Homestay Program became a very significant event for our Club. This very successful program attracted attention not only on the Space Coast but throughout the state of Florida because of its tremendous success.

The Octoberfest continued to grow and became a major Club effort, however, special individual recognition must be given to Lyle Henry, Dennis Sheppard and Grant Hussel because of the very significant contribution they have made to this activity. The planning, growth and success of this major undertaking was made possible by many hours of hard work, determination and the self sacrifice of these Rotarians. Dennis became "Mr. Octoberfest." The Octoberfest became Lyle's unpaid vacation for ten years. Grant became the "Octoberfest Hey Boy." We thank you all.

During the early 80's, a redistricting by Rotary International placed our Club in District 698. The new district consisted primarily of Central Florida area Clubs.

1985-1989 The following presidents presided over these most recent years:

1985-1986 Bob Wasson

1986-1987 Ray Singletary

1987-1988 Tim Netzley

1988-1989 Luke Miorelli

These years have to be classified as years of refinement and finesse for our Club. Our records have been up-dated. Our accounting system has been refined. The By-Laws have been reviewed and up-dated. Our Club history has been restored and brought up to date.

It has been a period when our Club has shown confidence in its abilities and has thus decided to make significant commitments to important causes. We have pledged \$9,000.00 plus for immunization of the world's children.

We have not stopped there, but have determined to continue and to accelerate our foundation support. We continue to play an important role in the district. In 1985-1986, Dan Richards was called to serve as the District Governor's Representative and in 1987-1988, Doug Vander Poest became the District Interact Chairman. For the first time ever, we have a participant in a forthcoming Group Study Exchange to Japan.

1989-1994 The following presidents presided over these years:

1989-1990 Don Anthony

1990-1991 Doug Vander Poest

1991-1992 Brian Fisher

1992-1993 Henry Phelps

1993-1994 Jim Sisseron

During this period in the Club, we lost two charter members, Joel Satterfield and Bill Langstroth. The only way to describe what they meant to the Eau Gallie Rotary Club, would be to say during the club infancy, "They made it a success."

Bill Langstroth was the Charter Secretary of the Rotary Club and remained so for many years. One of the many fond memories of Presidents during Bill's tenure as secretary was, a phone call at 10 P.M. on Monday night discussing Tuesdays agenda and the call Tuesday night at 10 P.M. discussing what you did wrong at the meeting. This conversation was quite lengthy if the Sgt. At Arms attempted to collect more than \$3.00 total for a session. Bill spent tireless hours for many years ensuring the success of what meant so much to him - The Eau Gallie Rotary Club.

Joel Satterfield was the second president of the Eau Gallie Rotary Club. Joel must be credited for the early philosophy of our Club - "Every member must know every member by his first name and attendance is mandatory to experience the true meaning of Rotary."

Joel spent many hours promoting Rotary and making a concerted effort to develop a membership of devoted Rotarians. He deserves considerable credit for the early success of our Club.

Personally, as your historian, I will always remember, Joel, he invited me to join the Eau Gallie Rotary Club in 1967. It is also noteworthy that he maintained perfect attendance until he became incapacitated. At his request, one meeting took place at his hospital bedside.

During the period 1988-1991, the Club continued to display confidence in its ability to commit support and funds to worthy causes throughout the community. The most notable being a three year commitment to the Space Coast Early Intervention Center (School for children with Down's Syndrome) for \$12,000.00. Additionally, the Club has shown considerable interest in the Space Coast Marine Institute, (a juvenile justice rehabilitation program) both as a Club and as members individually. Many of the members donate time and/or money to this cause.

During this same period, we were once again blessed with a net of \$9,600.00 from the Octoberfest. This enabled us to donate back to the community approximately \$26,500.00, a new high for the Club.

A very notable and significant milestone during 1989-1990, was the first female member being accepted into the Eau Gallie Rotary Club. Kate Maxner officially became a member of our Club in May, 1989. It must be said that Kate proved to be a great Rotarian and made this transition much easier than expected by the Club Elders.

During the 1990-1991 year the Club promoted the "Student of the Month" recognition program at Eau Gallie High School. This resulted from our concerted effort to stimulate the Interact Club sponsorship by our Club. This very effective promotion together with our participation in the Eau Gallie High School Homecoming Carnival, resulted in what could be our most successful period in the Club supporting youth programs in our community.

During the 1992-1993 year, the need for an alternate fund raiser to replace the questionable participation in the Oktoberfest became apparent. Thanks to President Henry Phelps, we became involved in selling vidalia onions. This proved to be a very smelly project; however, it paid off. We cleared approximately \$3,600.00 profit the first year and it is apparent the potential is unlimited. Obviously with serious commitment, onion sales could match the Oktoberfest for income with less man hours, investment and liability.

We continued during this period to participate in the International Rotary Homestay Program. Actually, our Club became very active in this project and contributed immeasurably to the success of the program. Our members hosted many Rotary families during their week long visit to our District.

It is indeed notable to mention that a new plateau was reached during 1993-1994. During this period, we were the recipients of a Presidential Citation Award. Additionally, we took on a new fund raiser, The Florida Institute of Technology soccer and basketball game concession stand.

We also spearheaded and participated in the construction of a house for Habitat for Humanity in conjunction with the other Clubs in Group 8. Once again the "Eau Gallie Club" excelled by being the top monetary contributor to the Habitat for Humanities Project.

Our affiliation with Habitat for Humanities has proven to be a most rewarding venture for the membership as well as the community.

By the way on a scale of 1 to 10 we still rank 10 in singing - obviously number 1 in the District.

1994-1995 Jay Sutherland

1995-1996 Mike Renfro

1996-1997 Scooter Webster

1997-1998 Bill Van Zante

These years brought on a younger group of Rotarians as our Presidents. In fact, Scooter Webster's term of 96-97 marks the first Eau Gallie Rotarian's son to become President twenty eight years after his father Oscar, served as our third President after charter.

President Jay Sutherland represented our club at the International convention in Taipei, Taiwan.

Young Presidents brought about new ideas in fund raising. One of the successful and interesting new fund raisers was the Art Auction during 94-96. During 97 we also rejuvenated the Flea Market and made money despite destroying the sign at the Palmdale Presbyterian Church.

During these years, the club embarked on some very interesting International Projects. Five Kidney Dialysis Machines were donated to a hospital in India. During the 97-98 years, the Haiti Water Project was conceived and is now a working reality by a joint effort between the Space Coast Marine Institute and the Industry for the Poor. Sizeable donations were made to the Haiti Water Project, The Florida Institute of Technology through the sale of tickets to their basketball tourney, and the Florida Rotary camp for children with cancer.

Another interesting note about the years of the Young and the Restless, we packed up and MOVED again. After many years at the Elks Club, we decided a change was needed and President Bill 97-98 moved us to Paulos Restaurant on US1. Would you believe they closed it a few weeks after the move.

During this period, four of our active Rotarians died in service.

Horace Reese: A charter member and stalwart in the founding of our club passed on after a lengthy illness. He will always be remembered as a faithful and hard working Rotarian.

W.G. (Doc) Strawbridge: Who shared his many civic interests with our club and involved us in many challenging and rewarding experiences. One memorable monument to his success and efforts, The Henegar Center.

Bill Steele: A relatively newcomer to our club, entered with determination and a willingness to meet any challenge that resulted in "Service Above Self". He was nominated by the Club to become President, an honor he cherished but because of health problems, he was unable to serve.

Frank Cutrona: A man who found in Rotary, the life he longed for, service to his community, help to his fellowman and fellowship that meant so much to him in his last year.

We miss them all.

## SUMMARY

In summary, the history of the Eau Gallie Rotary Club reveals, dedication, determination, fellowship and a sincere desire to serve the community in a manner best described by The Rotary Motto, "Service Above Self."

Our growth and success can best be measured by the comparison of our 26 members in 1966 with an operating budget of less than \$2,800.00 and our present Club of 69 members and an average fund balance of \$21,000.00. Additionally, we have sponsored two other active Clubs within our area.

It is interesting to note that our dollar commitment for Polio Plus, a single project in 1988 exceeds the dollar donations for the years 1966 thru 1979. Successful fund raising projects that enabled us to support the many service projects and youth programs included flea markets, concessions, onion sales and etc. The most successful in terms of dollars was of course, the Octoberfest.

We no longer have this luxury and consequently must search for a successful fund raiser to generate funds to continue our extensive community involvement.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind what we might call "Old Rotarians"; meaning those who have served many years and have consequently grown old in the Eau Gallie Rotary Club, it is time that we realize the thoughts and ideas of young Rotarians are different from ours. They represent a different period, new ideas, dictated to some extent by the ecology, economy, liability, or in other words, "Changing Times" - quite different from our era.

It is necessary that we sit back and offer guidance when necessary, support to the maximum, and encouragement always in whatever they choose to undertake. We must do our part in pursuing the goals and challenges set forth by our Board of Directors. It is their turn now to establish goals and develop a membership worthy of handling the demands of community, country and the ever changing Rotary World.

And last but not least, Eau Gallie Rotarians, you can be very proud of your Club and its accomplishments. To our Charter members, you are to be commended. To our long time and still active members, you are to be congratulated. To our young and new Rotarians, you are challenged to carry on the traditions and heritage of our Club and to strive for even greater heights!

God Bless Rotary