



The Bath Tub

Hot Springs National Park Newsletter



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Week of

Upcoming Programs:

June 19, 2024

HSNP Rotary Club Achievement Day

**June 25, 2024
6:00 pm**

**HSNP Rotary Club Installation Banquet
See Information Below**

**June 26, 2024 &
July 3, 2024**

NO CLUB MEETING

Emily Hamilton, AR State Police Foundation



L-R: President Chris Franklin, Speaker Emily Hamilton, Past President Les Warren
Past President Les Warren introduced this week's speaker, Emily Hamilton, who is the Executive Director of the AR State Police Foundation.

The Arkansas State Police (ASP) was established in 1935 with 13 original rangers and their primary function was to enforce prohibition laws. Today, ASP has approximately 567 employees in the highway patrol division and 111 in the criminal investigation division. ASP has 12 troops, and their duties include patrolling public highways, establishing a Crimes against Children division, maintaining security for the governor and our State Capitol, providing protection for statewide functions, and serving as an assisting agency when requested.

As part of their efforts in the Crimes against Children, they launched a program in 2023 to stop sexual predators through Operation Cyber Highway Safety Check. During only three months, 42 arrests were made related to child sexual abuse. Officers rescued 5 children from ongoing sexual abuse and identified 22 new victims.

ASP recently conducted Operation Hope here in Hot Springs to combat human trafficking. A single day operation, 7 women believed to be victims of human trafficking were offered services and 25 local victims were identified, with an array of services being offered to these women.

Troopers also give back to the community in a variety of ways, including selfless and generous ways such as finding overnight housing for an elderly man who was stranded on the side of the road. This was just one example.

ASP performs proactive responses such as saturations. During May 21-25 during a saturation in East AR, Pulaski County, and Sebastian County, officers conducted 163 criminal arrests, 726 citations, and 17 DWI arrests. Another proactive response is traffic violation crackdowns. During Spring Break, March 19 - 24 this year, patrols on Central Arkansas Interstates and Highways gave 199 traffic citations, 128 warnings, and worked 6 accidents.

Emily's last section concentrated on the Interstate Criminal Patrol Team who recently this year took home 3 awards that included Team of the Year and Officer of the Year for the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area for their work in 2023. Here is a recap of 2024 seizures:

- Marijuana 5,832 lbs.
- Cocaine 113 lbs.
- Methamphetamine 140 lbs.
- Heroine 1.5 lbs.
- THC Products 2,790 lbs.
- Fentanyl 0.5 lbs.
- Weapons 11
- Illegal Pills 13,000
- Vehicles 15

Club Leaders



Chris Franklin
President



Sara Brown
President-Elect



Tim Metcalf
Vice President



Gary McKuin
Secretary



Courtney W. Moore
Treasurer



Renee Bartholomae
Club Director



Diane LaFollette
Club Director



Cheryl Lynn Stafford
Club Director



David Trice
Club Director

Birthdays

- David Trice
June 23rd
- Charles H. Dante Jr.
June 23rd
- Gary A. Troutman
June 28th
- Liberty Lee
July 1st
- Mary Anne Couch
July 3rd
- Janet E. Smith
July 5th
- Sarah Richardson
July 6th
- Susan Allen Harper
July 6th
- Sara Brown
July 15th

- vehicles 13
- Cash 2.4 million

This only scratches the surface of what ASP does on a daily basis to keep Arkansans safe. But what Emily really came to talk about â€” the Arkansas State Police Foundation, which was founded in 2000 when they saw there was a need to raise funds for training and equipment where state and federal funding was falling short. The Foundation is much more than that today. They have 45 board members around the state that come from various businesses and backgrounds. A program that is very special to the Foundation is Hearts for Heroes. This program assists families and troopers during illness, injury or even assisting with funeral costs or other expenses when needed. They also assist these families and troopers during natural disasters. The members of the Foundation are always on call and respond whenever a need arises, always willing to assist. The general fund of the foundation covers costs for meetings, trainings, and equipment. They reimburse retirees when they wish to purchase their shotgun. Troopers can purchase their gun for \$100 upon retirement and the auxiliary will give them their money back. Emily began her career as Executive Director of the Foundation as a result of being part of an auxiliary. There are 12 troops in Arkansas and there are 12 auxiliaries. The members of the auxiliaries are spouses of troopers and are the community service arm of the Foundation. They are out in communities across the state promoting ASP in a positive light.

The Foundation covers many costs for troopers and families, such as the ASP Awards Luncheon, flags for the honor guard, holiday parties, and scholarships. They currently have 19 students on scholarship and recently awarded 15 more for students who will begin in the fall of 2024. Scholarships are not just for traditional colleges, but also for 2-year colleges, associate degrees, trade schools, and beauty schools. The scholarship fund is projected to be \$2 million over the next 5 years.

The final jewel in the crown of the Foundation that Emily shared with the club, is the Precision Driving Training Complex located at Camp Robinson. When it became known there was a need for the troopers to have a designated driving track for training, the Foundation went to work and gifted them a \$5 million complex in 2019. In 2023, the Foundation added to this gift a classroom tower, and garage.

Rex Nelson



L-R: President Chris Franklin, Speaker Rex Nelson, Past President Gary Troutman

As **Past President Gary Troutman** said, Rex Nelson really needs no introduction except to say, â€œOur buddy, Rexâ€, as he has spoken to our club so many times. He has been with the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* for many years, and is an expert on Arkansas History, Southern culture and Southern politics. A true friend of Hot Springs, he grew up in Arkadelphia and coming to Hot Springs when he was young was like coming to â€œhis New Yorkâ€, the Medical Arts building was his â€œEmpire State Buildingâ€, and the Arlington Hotel was his â€œWaldorf-Astoriaâ€. He covers all 75 counties in the state, but Hot Springs has so much going on, he seems to write more about our town than any other community.

Nelson is â€œbullishâ€ on Hot Springs and told us about many of the reasons why.

He says that Oaklawn has sent a message to the entire tourism industry to really â€œup their gameâ€ when the Astral Spa at Oaklawn recently received the coveted 4-star rating from Forbes - one of only 225 spas in the **world**.

More good news came to Hot Springs from Lexington, Kentucky when a Hot Springs-owned horse won the Kentucky Derby. D. Wayne Lucas, who now calls Hot Springs his base, recently won the Preakness.

Another reason he is so bullish on Hot Springs is demographics. The continued growth of the Dallas-Ft. Worth market is predicted to pass Chicago as the third-largest metro area in America by the end of the decade. With our proximity to this area, Nelson sees no reason that Hot Springs should not explode into a real new golden era in the next 10â€”20 years, based on those demographics.

Nelson acknowledged the tremendous progress downtown but says the many large empty buildings downtown send a negative message to newcomers, with the biggest of them all â€” the Army Navy Hospital â€œsitting on the hill looming over everythingâ€. To truly take advantage of these demographic trends, those buildings must have a very intense and strong focus in the next few years, not just by locals, but by the people of the state. Hot Springs is #1 in tourism in the state and tourism is #2 part of our stateâ€™s economy. Nelson asks â€œwhy hasn't our entire delegation (not just Rep. Bruce Westerman) been more focused on this? Why hasn't former President Bill Clinton been involved, since he grew up here and there has been a Democratic administration in office for the last three years?â€

Nelson's column this Sunday in the *Democrat-Gazette* will again be about Hot Springs, specifically the Army-Navy Hospital. His thoughts and ideas about that wonderful building will be well worth reading.

Board Notes

The next Board meeting will be held at the Hot Springs Country Club on **Tuesday, July 9 at noon**. As always, all membership is invited to join us, especially new members who are trying to earn that coveted Blue Badge! This last meeting of the Rotary Year will include current and incoming Board members. Please let Jackie know if you plan to attend. If you'd like to have lunch with us, please come 15 minutes early, so you can order off the menu prior to the start of the meeting.

At our June 11 Board Meeting, the Board regretfully accepted the resignations of **Greg Quinney** (health), **Kevin Hall** (retirement) and **John Hogan** (retirement and relocation). We will miss these Rotarians and wish them the very best!
