

Rotary



Club of Stuart-Sunrise

Club Meeting

Stuart-Sunrise
Meets at Banyan Creek
Country Club
1701 SW Crane Creek Ave
Palm City, FL 34990
Time: Thursday at 07:30
AM

Speakers

January 16, 2025

[Mark Perry, Executive
Director Florida
Oceanographic Society](#)

January 23, 2025

[Rob Ranieri, CEO House of
Hope](#)

Golden Gate Building, an
opportunity for service?

January 30, 2025

[Lori Sang, Executive
Director Little Lights
Dentistry](#)

Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

Club Member Anniversaries



Michael L
Costopoulos
02-01-2015
10 Years



Charles S Dame
III
01-18-2024
1 Year

Rotary News for January 9, 2025

By Susan Dawson Whittington

The meeting was called to order by Tom, who led the pledge; prayer by Sue.

Announcements:

Fundraising Committee meeting today after meeting

Board meeting January 30th after club meeting

Chris Shoaf and HB Barrett are celebrating birthdays this week.

John Robitaille and Beth & Tom Brownell are celebrating Rotary anniversaries this week.

Beth & Tom are defecting to Costa Rica for two weeks and Linda will be running things while they are doing yoga in the trees with monkeys.

February 2 is our Elliott Museum tour of the UFO exhibit – signup info to come.

POLIO PLUS – Remember to make your annual \$100 contribution or Kathy will withhold future corn distribution from you.

John Robitaille recovering from Achilles tendon repair surgery (OUCH)

We welcomed RICH CORBOY as our newest member!

Happy/Sad Dollars

Linda's son was accepted into a PhD program; People were HAPPY and SAD about the cold weather. JD is happy that she woke up this morning – she forgot to mention whether she was happy or sad about waking up COLD. Gene got to be with his 1-year-old great-granddaughter and was happy to be part of the United Way Holiday project that served 935 families. The scholarship program is off and running with more than 50 applicants to consider. (Gene later read a letter from a renewing scholar who is studying DRONE FLYING at Florida Gulf Coast University). Rick announced that the \$1,700 collected for Florida hurricane victims will be donated to Project LIFE, which is building tiny houses for residents of New Monrovia displaced by hurricanes. Matt is attending his nonprofit's 16th annual invitational at Carnegie Hall next week (take your long johns). Tom W. is super excited about the weather for the Stuart Boat Show this weekend – no one will want to be on their boats so they will be at the show. He also presented a BIG check in celebration of his birthday. Butch is happy about the Detroit Lions and the University of Michigan football team. Jason received a thank-you note from All About Achieving for the dictionaries we donated...the letter came from his fourth grade teacher who is now at All About Achieving. HB announced that we gave 50 dictionaries to St. Joseph's and 30 to the Treasure Coast Classical Academy. Max is happy that Mike was there. Mike was happy that Sue was taking his wife away for a tennis tournament this weekend. Cynthia is happy that our server, Bree, got married over the holidays. Rex noted that he moved to Florida to get away from cold weather and yet he is heading to North Carolina next week. Tom B has been eating out and running around a lot and wasn't sure if he was happy or sad about that, but he was happy that he and Beth are heading to Costa Rica for 2 weeks. In absentia, Beth gave a sad dollar for dental work that prevented her from being with us. Charles is happy for Rich being in the club and for our speaker today, "Army Dog Brett"

Brett Fitzgerald, Anglers Action Foundation

By Susan Dawson Whittington

Our speaker today is Brett Fitzgerald CEO of the Angler Action Foundation, formerly the Snook Foundation. Their vision is: 'Let Anglers Count'. Their mission is to improve angler access, fisheries science, and marine habitat through collaborative research, education and conservation programs. In

2010, we had 11 episodes of subfreezing temperatures which negatively affected the snook population – they froze and died. The Fish and Wildlife Commission reached out to AAF for help trying to understand this and by the end of summer 2010, they had more data from recreational anglers than ever before. FWC asked them to develop iAngler to track ALL species. This is the only database owned by fishermen and used for stock assessment. Prior to 2010, only habitat restoration and economic impact were the focus. Healthy mangroves = healthy fish.



They later studied the American Red Snapper population – what fishermen were experiencing did not match the data that the red snapper industry was reporting. This population was being fished by individuals and recreational fishermen. Trout counts on the East and West Coast of Florida – 8% of trout caught were kept on the Atlantic side and 39% were kept on the Gulf side. The percentage of sea trout caught per fishing trip dropped by 50% between 2013 and 2018 – pointing to the lack of healthy seagrass. Tucker Cove in the St. Lucie Inlet is being used for pilot studies with seagrass (grown in cages to protect it). Seagrass needs sunlight to thrive – dirty water is bad for seagrass. Twenty acres have been planted and 20 more are slated to be planted. They just received funding for an additional 20 for a total of 60 acres in this pilot project. Brett can be contacted at brett@angleractionfoundation.com or 561-707-8923. Their website is www.angleractionfoundation.com
