

Rotary
New Port Richey



UNITE FOR GOOD



*Welcome to the
Rotary Club of New Port Richey*

THE LOCAL ROTARIAN



P.O. BOX 267, NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34656-0267

• DISTRICT 6950

• WWW.ROTARY6950.ORG

Welcome to the Rotary Club of New Port Richey

September 24, 2025

A warm welcome to today's guest speaker, Josh McCart from Energy Marine Center.

Last Week

Announcements

Well Wishes For Cami Austin

President Andy opened the meeting asking us to keep our Vice President, Cami Austin, in our thoughts and prayers. After a recent hospitalization and surgery, Cami is, true to form, on the mend and sashaying back toward her strong, beautiful self. We love you, Cams. Your strength, warmth and sparkle are part of what makes this club feel like home. Wishing you a pain-free, lickety-split recovery. We're holding your seat. Always.

Well Wishes For John Stewart

While it was not announced at last week's meeting (because it was learned after Wednesday), former member and Past Club President John Stewart is currently in the North Bay Hospital being treated for pneumonia. Wishing John a speedy and healthy recovery.

WGD Meeting Reminder

WGD '26 Committee Chair Mike Wickham reminded us to get ready for the first meeting, tomorrow morning. Number one takes place from 8:00 to 9:00 AM on Thursday, September 25, 2025. Same bat time, new bat cave: YFA, 7524 Platue Rd, NPR. Future meeting dates are listed in the weekly newsletter. Gentlemen, mark your calendars, it is "Go Time!"

Red Badge boys? It is time to grab those dish-washing gloves and start preparing yourselves for a long night of, well, I don't really know! Dishwashing?

Taking orders from barking old (er) guys?

Red Badge ladies, not so fast. We need you for "Family Night, 2026!" Carol Parris will Co-Chair this year and together, we are going to make it bigger and better than last year. Contact Lisa Parisi with your availability via text or email (352) 835-9249 newsletter@nprrotary.com

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

Committee Chair Greg Wegener continues to distribute flyers for our Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, taking place on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. This is one of our Club's signature events. Honoring the men and women who have served our country is, without question, one of our proudest moments as Rotarians. Please invite the veterans in your life and please plan to attend this meaningful meeting of gratitude and respect.

Past Due Dues

Club treasurer, Jacques Hakim took to the mic to explain the email reminders he recently sent for "past due" Rotary dues. Enough said. Thank you.

Big Red Bus

Nikki Alvarez-Sowles encouraged attendees to visit the "Big Red Bus" before 1:30 PM. She organizes three to four blood drives each year, mainly because there's no such thing as too much in the bank. Future dates for this important cause will be shared in the newsletter prior to the event.

Stilt House

Tim McClain recapped last Saturday's Stilt House social. On behalf of himself and Bruce Mills, he thanked participants for a great turnout and event. Mike Hrock also expressed appreciation to Tim and Bruce for their hard work and a great time on the water. To view the photos, email Tim for the link tim@mcclainandsons.com

Murder At The Hacienda

Bruce Mills shared information about an event we mentioned in the newsletter last week. Murder at the Hacienda took place last Friday, September 19, 2025. Kristen King circulated sign-up sheets for an event our Club sponsors, Keep Pasco Beautiful, which also took place last weekend. Check out the Good Stuff for the details.

Rotary Club of Seven Springs Events

Jeff Siegel, representing the Rotary Club of Seven Springs shared information on their upcoming events. Please visit their Facebook page for more information.

Bourbon Selection Committee

Brian Hoben was back at the microphone. Maybe he misses being our Sergeant-at-Arms? Nah, he practically bowed to Hrock for taking over the gig. Brian was yakking about this year's Bourbon Selection Committee's trip to Kentucky. What sacrifices Rotarians make, right? From what I could gather, the Old Forester Stilling Company, located on Whiskey Row in Louisville, Kentucky was chosen for the winning barrel this year. Barrel A980 was born on 02-03-2021 which makes him over 4 years old. Yes, the barrel identifies as a he. She or It just doesn't convey the strength of this stuff. He packs a punch, boasting a whopping 129.6 ABV (that's fancy-talk for proof, alcohol by volume). Brian explained the bottles will be "a balanced version of bourbon." That's Kentuckian talk for a bourbon whose flavor profile is harmonious, meaning, no single element takes over the flavor. That translation was courtesy of our friends at the Point Distillery. Are we close, Brian? Let's move on to the fundraising side of this fiasco! Around 180 bottles will be available for purchase at \$125 per bottle. The Committee is hoping to "roll out the barrel" (that JUST came to me, I swear!!) just

Last Week continued on page 4.

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DISTRICT 6950 LOCAL ROTARY CLUB MEETING TIMES AND PLACES

MONDAY

Dade City 12:00
Kafe Kokopelli - Citrus Room
E-Club of Southeast USA
and Caribbean 7:00pm
ZOOM Meetings First Monday of each month
AND <http://www.rotaryclub34.org>
Continuous On-Line Thread Meeting

TUESDAY

Holiday 12:10
The Social
Rotary Satellite Club of Trinity-Odessa .. 6:00
Phi Delta Kappa, Fraternity
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month

WEDNESDAY

Safety Harbor Noon 12:00
Wateroak Grill, Downtown Safety Harbor
Palm Harbor 12:15
Innisbrook Market Grille
New Port Richey 12:15
Spartan Manor
Wesley Chapel 12:15
Lexington Oaks Gulf Clubhouse
Nature Coast 5:30pm
Brooksville Elks
1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month
Tarpon Sunset 5:30pm
Wentworth Golf Club

Wednesday continued next column

Rotary eClub Make-ups:

Rotary E-Club of Southeast USA & Caribbean is a REAL Club in our Rotary District. It is a regional e-club based in our Rotary District 6950 and has membership from all over the world.

<http://www.rotaryclub34.org>

Requires a \$5 donation which is a charitable contribution to Rotary projects the eclub supports. Complete instructions are on our club website: [nprrotary.org](http://www.nprrotary.org) News & Stories tab/Documents. Or, you can find the instructions in DACdb, My Club, Club Files, Secure Files.

**NEW NEW
LOCATION**

**NEW NEW
LOCATION**

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Club Board Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month 5:30pm at Thirsty Buffalo Brew Factory 2330 Success Drive, Odessa (West Pasco Industrial Park)

We are Rotary Club 4279. Check out our website at:

www.nprrotary.com

Cover Photos from: www.cityofnewportrichey.org

**The Local Rotarian Editor: Lisa Parisi
Cell: 352-835-9249**

Email all information to: newsletter@nprrotary.com

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West Pasco Sunset 6:00pm
Catches
1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month

THURSDAY

Seven Springs 7:30am
Seven Springs Golf & Country Club
Spring Hill 7:45am
IHOP Restaurant
Hudson 12:00
CARES Enrichment Center
Hudson/Bayonet Point
Brooksville 12:00
Southern Hills Plantation Club
Tarpon Springs 12:15
Cypress Run Country Club

FRIDAY

Wesley Chapel Sunrise 7:15am
The Happy Hanger Café
1st and 3rd Friday of every month
Land O' Lakes 9:00am
Copperstone Executive Offices
Timothy 12:15
Timber Greens Country Club

For traveling Rotarians, a complete listing of Rotary club meeting days and times may be found by going to our website: [nprrotary.org](http://www.nprrotary.org) (District Links tab)

Rotary International Theme 2025-2026

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Francesco Arezzo

President 2025-2026 Rotary International

Becky Bennett

District Governor 2025-2026
District 6950

Rick Wright

Assistant District Governor
2025-2026 | District 6950

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do...

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?



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Monthly Matters

September Reflections

Florida's Colorful Coasts

Florida is not just a peninsula, it is an eclectic landscape of stories. Each coast carries its own legacy, its own rhythm, its own reinvention and definitely its own vibe. As we close out September, we trace the state's spirit through its colorfully named coasts, each demonstrating a different kind of RESILIENCE.

The First Coast

Where Florida's Story Begins

Stretching from Fernandina to St. Augustine, this is Florida's oldest European-settled region. Fort Caroline and Castillo de San Marcos echo Spain's fight to claim La Florida. Old forts show off Florida's Spanish roots, Jacksonville's skyline shows how far it's come, and St. Augustine still feels like Florida's heartbeat, full of history.

The Cultural Coast

Art, opera and architectural elegance, Sarasota and its barrier islands earned this moniker for their rich arts scene. The Ringling legacy lives on in museums and theaters, while Siesta Key and Longboat Key offer beachside serenity. With 13 stages in a one-mile radius, it's Florida's performing arts capital.

The Emerald Coast

The panhandle is full of charm. Once dubbed the "Playground of the Gulf," it stretches from Pensacola to Panama City and was built on fishing, military roots, and sugary-white sand. Destin earned its nickname as the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village," while Fort Walton Beach became a spring break staple. Today, luxury homes line 30A, and eco-tourism—the traveling of tourists to natural areas, supporting local communities—is reshaping the region's identity.

The Forgotten Coast

Florida's "last quiet frontier" is tucked between Mexico Beach and St. Marks. This area, a panhandle gem, was literally left off state maps, hence, the name. Apalachicola was once the Oyster Capital of the World, and Port St. Joe hosted Florida's first constitutional convention. Today, it's notorious for its unspoiled beaches, maritime heritage, and slow-living ethos.

The Fun Coast

Speed, surf and sand, the Fun Coast is centered on Daytona Beach, nicknamed the "birthplace of speed," where stock car racing evolved into NASCAR. Drive-on beaches and motorsports history meet family-friendly

vibes. Ormond Beach and Ponce Inlet offer quieter charm, and A1A keeps the coastal vibe alive.

The Gold Coast

Glamour, grit and global influence, from Palm Beach to Miami, this coast earned its name from wealth and high-rise glitz and glam. Once shaped by land booms and Cuban immigration, it's now a global crossroads of finance, fashion, and nightlife. Strong communities and blended cultures have created an epic vibe.

The Lee Island Coast

Shells, Sanibel and southwest sophistication stretch across Lee County which includes Fort Myers, Cape Coral, and the sea-shelly shores of Sanibel and Captiva. Once Calusa territory and later Spanish fishing camps, it's now a boating and birding paradise. Cape Coral's canals rival Venice, and Fort Myers is booming with development.

The Nature Coast

Springs, swamps and seagrass sanctuaries, stretching from Wakulla to Pasco County, compose the Big Bend region. A haven for manatees, scallopers, and birders, it was once home to Timucua tribes and early Spanish explorers. Today it hosts aquatic preserves and wildlife refuges. Crystal River and Homosassa are hotspots for snorkeling, while Cedar Key keeps the old Florida spirit alive.

The Space Coast Launchpads & Lagoon Magic

From Titusville to Melbourne, this coast was forever changed by the 1950 launch of Bumper 8. Kennedy Space Center became the heart of American spaceflight, with Cocoa Beach balancing astronauts with surfers. Today, SpaceX and Blue Origin fuel a new boom, and bioluminescent kayaking adds natural wonder to the mix.

The Sun Coast

Bright skies and Barrier Island bliss, the Sun Coast is centered around Tampa Bay, and boasts the most sunshine days per year. St. Pete Beach, Clearwater, and Sarasota grew from sponge docks and citrus groves into trendy beach towns. Today, it's a mix of retirees, rooftop bars, and revitalized downtowns. Tampa's Gasparilla keeps the pirate spirit alive.

The Treasure Coast

Shipwrecks, Citrus and Small-Town Charm, the coast was named for the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet that wrecked offshore. Treasure Coast includes Vero Beach, Fort Pierce, and Stuart. Once sleepy citrus towns, they now blend boutique tourism with maritime lore. Art galleries, fishing piers, and a slower pace define the modern vibe.



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Owner / Rotarian

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HANDLE	GRINDER	KINDLING	FRAME



GROUP 1

- _____
- _____
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- _____

GROUP 2

- _____
- _____
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- _____

GROUP 3

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GROUP 4

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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...The Good Stuff ...

Let the Good Times Roll

Several club members and fellow district Rotarians turned out for the annual Badge Wives Casino Night fundraiser, proudly sponsored by our Club. Among the party goers, King Pithala, Gary Gann; Queen Chasco, Angie Gardner; Paula Gann; Mary and Charlie Rogers; Derek and Stefanie Pontlitz; Jeremy and Nora George; Kurt Conover; and Scott Cerrone. Purchasing extra poker chips to support the organization, no reported winnings. As you can see in the photo, these kids still know how to laugh and have a good time!



Clean Sweep

Keep Pasco Beautiful Cleanup

This annual, club sponsored event took place last Saturday, September 20, 2025. Our "green kid" Kristen King organized our meet at 9 AM, only one of eight locations throughout the county. Club President, Andy Lyons, Chris Ghisson, and myself joined Kristen at the Energy Marine Center (EMC). Before getting down-n-dirty on a beautiful Saturday morning, we were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of this hidden coastal gem by Josh McCart. (Our guest speaker today) Then we rolled up our sleeves and headed for the shoreline and Brasher Park. The highlight of the day was meeting a very special resident. During clean-up after Hurricane Milton the EMC staff discovered a baby Diamondback Terrapin nestled in the debris. Weighing just 5 grams when rescued, this tough lil guy will live his life in a private aquarium fit for a king. His name? Milton, what else? Thank you, Josh, for a really nice morning.



Getting to Know You

New Member Spotlight on

Rachel Thompson, MBA

Rachel is a seasoned philanthropy and non-profit leader with 20+ years in development, marketing, and community engagement. As Director of Development II at Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation (BayCare), she leads Planned Giving and Major Gifts. A Baylor and Walden alum, Rachel lives with her husband, two kids, and their pup Ollie, always up for a family adventure. Welcome to the Rotary Club of NPR, Rachel!



Family Matters

Recently, Charlie Rogers celebrated his birthday with Mary and the kids. The family has expanded over the past 3 or so years and in this photo, everyone looks healthy and oh, so happy! Salud, Charlie. Cheers to you and your beautiful family!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

 **Libra** - (September 23-October 23) *Libra is latin for "pair of scales." The scale is the only object in the zodiac. All other signs are represented by a person or an animal.*

Max Palakkat, September 25

Stan Mills, September 30

CLUB ANNIVERSARY

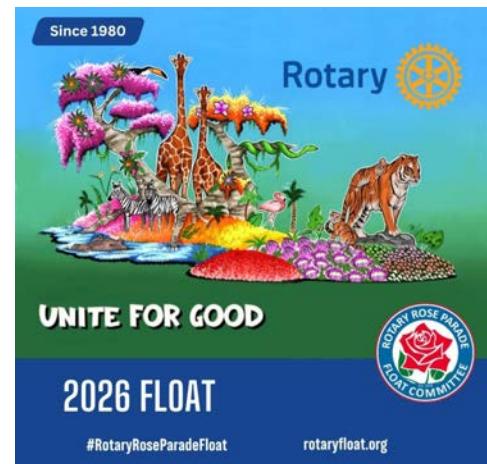
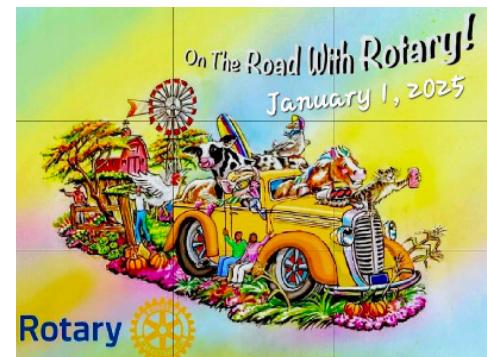
SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Carol McCormick, September 28 (9 yrs)

District 6950 Spotlight

Rotary International Parading Around? What?

In 1980, Rotary International celebrated its 75th Anniversary and entered the first Rotarian crafted float in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA. For over forty five years, the Rotary float has been a colorful symbol of unity, hope, and humanitarian efforts worldwide. The 2025 float, "On the Road with Rotary," celebrated the "Magic of Rotary" theme. The 2026 float themed "Unite for Good" was recently revealed. It features color, movement and wildlife with giraffes, zebras, toucans, and even a tiger nurturing her cubs. The float was designed to display a metaphor for teamwork across all borders. Rotarians are invited to participate by dedicating roses to loved ones, joining the decorating committee, or by volunteering to walk alongside the float on New Year's Day. Information is available at rotaryfloat.org.



WGD COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

WGD Committee meetings will be held Thursdays 8-9am at Youth & Family Advocates, Inc., 7524 Platthe Rd., NPR (unless specified otherwise).

September 25, 2025 December 4, 2025

October 9, 2025 December 18, 2025

October 25, 2025 January 15, 2026

November 6, 2025 January 29, 2026

November 20, 2025 February (TBA), 2026

"Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united world-wide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world."

Those 31 words are worth remembering when someone asks, "What is a Rotary club?"



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18 Years



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