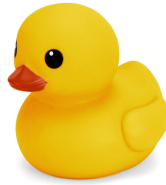




Keeping Up with the Rotarians

CHECK OUT WHAT'S COMING AT THIS WEEK'S CLUB MEETING (AND BEYOND)



AS GOOD DUCK WOULD HAVE IT

CORPORATE SPONSORS SAYING YES TO OUR RUBBER DUCK RACE



A PHAT CLUB SOCIAL FOR FAT TUESDAY

FUN IN THE SUN AT THE SERENATA CLUB



NEXT CLUB MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT 7:30AM

TREYLOR PARK RESTAURANT IN NOCATEE

ZOOM: ID - 831 0429 0873; PASSWORD - 252056

THE.32081.ROTARIAN

What Can We Expect at This Week's Club Meeting?



Nease High School student, Owen Scruggs, will be visiting our club this Tuesday morning as an outbound Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) student this fall to the Netherlands .



David Torres will share what he learned at the recently-completed Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) in Gainesville.





We'll learn 2 Truths and a Lie about member, Eddie Sarnowski. Will you be able to tell which fact about him is a fib?



Our guest speaker will highlight Michelle Orts as the new Senior Program Director at the YMCA's New American Welcome Center (NAWC). Our Club Foundation gave several thousand dollars to the NAWC earlier this Rotary year.

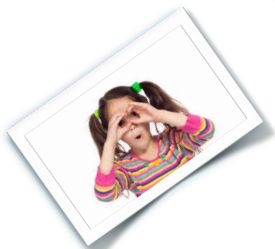
UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS & SPEAKERS

February 28 Meeting - Candace Burrows, New American Welcome Center: helps immigrants fully integrate into U.S. society

March 2, 7:30am-8:30am: Gardening event with members of the EarlyAct program at Valley Ridge Academy

March 7 Meeting - Tony Kazlauskas, MESH: fills funding gaps for homeless students in St. Johns County

March 9, 6-7pm: President's Office Hours at Greenwise Cafe



Our club got a very nice write-up in the Ponte Vedra Recorder for our Rotary Heroes event last month. If you haven't seen it already, check it out [here](#).



Meeting Recap from February 14



Michelle Colee from [Wildflower Healthcare](#) in St. Augustine was our guest speaker on February 14. She told us about their efforts to provide free medical and dental care to those who cannot afford it in St. Johns County. In addition, club members made out Valentine's Day cards for residents at Starling in Nocatee. These cards were delivered to the senior living center right after our meeting.

Club Social Recap from February 21



L-R: Andy Erickson, Area Governor Sam Hall, Bob Wiltfong, Linda Lomax, Rosemary Lorenz, Josh Hull and Denny Baldwin.

Club Secretary, Rosemary Lorenz, and her husband Mark welcomed club members and their spouses to the Serenata Beach Club last Tuesday evening for a club social. To commemorate the social coinciding with Fat Tuesday, all present were given Mari Gras beads and masks to mark the occasion. We were greeted by a perfect day to sit oceanside and enjoy each other's company. As a special treat, Area Governor Sam Hall (of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach) and potential member (and past Rotarian from Auburn, Alabama), George Postell, joined us as well (after driving roughly 6 hours to be there!). It was a fantastic night (even though laryngitis rendered Rosemary's voice a shadow of its normal self) and much thanks to Rosemary and Mark for hosting such a wonderful event. Laissez les bons temps rouler!!!



Follow the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra



Mark Your Calendars

MARCH

March 2, 7:30am-8:30am: Join members of our EarlyAct program at Valley Ridge Academy as they freshen up the flowers and plants in front of their school. You have to be cleared as a volunteer by the school district by going [here](#) in order to take part in this activity.

March 9, 6-7pm: Bob Wiltfong will hold his monthly President's Office Hours at the Greenwise Cafe. Stop by to share a conversation, a drink and/or ask any Rotary related question you have about our club.

March 25:

- [RYLA, Act I--Youth Leadership Summit, Part I and Food Packing, Location Beachside HS, St. Augustine.](#) 8am-4:30pm; RYLA is Rotary Youth Leadership Awards — find out more [here](#)
- District Grants Training, Food Packing, Beachside HS
- Rotary Fellowship (Scotch & Wine Tastings), Location TBD

March 28:

- **6:30pm-8pm:** Evening Club Assembly - join us for an evening meeting (no morning meeting this day) as we hold a Club Assembly & Social Hour for all club members at Treylor Park
- District Grant Training Seminar, Zoom, TBD (mandatory training for 2023/24 District Grant Applications)

APRIL

April 2: Our Club's 5th Anniversary!

April 15: RYLA Act II: Zoom, TBD, 9am-1pm

MAY

May 12: District Training Assembly, Trinity Parrish/Flagler College, St. Augustine

May 12-13: District Conference, Trinity Parrish, St. Augustine

May 13: RYLA Act III: St. Augustine, 8-4:30pm

May 21: Our annual [Rubber Duck Race](#) event, Noon, Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill

May 27-31: [2023: Rotary International Convention, Melbourne, Australia](#)



Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra President,
2022-23, Bob Wiltfong.

From the President's Desk

2-1-1. Those numbers were re-introduced into my life this past week while meeting with my fellow Rotary Presidents in the area. The President of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville-Oceanside, Wendy Ranson, was sharing that her club has had great success with this formula ever since adopting it.

What does 2-1-1 mean? It means that every month, you have 2 regular meetings, 1 community service gathering and 1 social for your club. To me, that sounds brilliant. A 2-1-1 format would allow our club to benefit in several ways:

- We could meet at least once a month in the evenings. That could free up our members who find it difficult to make our regular 7:30am meeting time.
- We would save on our monthly rent at Treylor Park. Right now, we pay \$150/week for our meetings at the restaurant. Take away 2 meetings per month at Treylor Park & we potentially put \$300 back into our club.
- Club socials are fun! I think sometimes, as Rotarians, we get so caught up in doing good in the world that we forget about the social aspect of being in one of the world's largest fellowship organizations.
- Monthly hands-on community service projects could be a draw for new members. Before I joined Rotary, I found the idea of doing a monthly service project in my community appealing. I think others would too.

At our next club Board meeting (which takes place this Wednesday, March 1, 6:30pm-8pm, at my house, btw; all club members are welcome to join!), I'm going to propose that our club switch to a 2-1-1 format starting in April. Let me and/or other Board members know what you think about this idea and we'll decide on it as a club at our (evening) Club Assembly on March 28.

How to Help Earthquake Victims in Turkey



More than 40,000 people are dead and over 100,000 are injured in Turkey after a [devastating earthquake](#) hit there on February 6. You can help by donating money to either of two main Rotary avenues right now:

1.) Go online to the [District 6970 Webpage](#) and donate to our District's York Foundation. District leaders will package all the donations they receive and send them to Rotary District 2430 (which covers Turkey). You can also write a check payable to "The York Foundation, Inc." and send it to:

Rotary District 6970
York Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 47195
Jacksonville, FL 32247

2.) Donate to organizations in that area that fellow Rotarian (and sometime guest of our club) Raiza Kohli works with first-hand over there. Raiza says all these groups are helping earthquake victims right now:

- [Karam Foundation](#)
- [Reaching Across Borders \(RAB\)](#)
- [Human Aid & Development \(HAND\)](#)

Whatever Happened to...?

As you may recall, we started our Rotary year in July with a “Write the Plan” day where we defined our club goals for the year. Those goals involved three very ambitious goals (aka: Big Hairy Audacious Goals or BHAGs) for community service:

- Participating in a Rotary Global Grant application for Sustainable Cambodia where we would help provide clean drinking water filters (and a lot more) to some of the poorest regions of that country.
- Installing club-branded exercise stations along the Greenway in Nocatee
- Financing the installation of club-branded water bottle refill stations in Nocatee and/or Davis Park

Well, those ideas haven’t gone away. Matter of fact, they’ve been going on behind-the-scenes for months now largely through the efforts of our club’s outstanding Community Service Chair, Denny Baldwin. Here’s an update on each of those projects as of right now:



- Through a successful fundraising effort this fall, our club has dedicated \$10,000 in the lead position of a Global Grant application to Rotary International for Sustainable Cambodia. That application is still coordinating the fundraising efforts of multiple Rotary clubs around the world who are joining the effort. We are following the lead of Sustainable Cambodia’s founders at the Rotary Club of Gainesville for what’s next. Our club’s lead on this effort is

Andy Erickson with Denny Baldwin and President Bob Wiltfong as secondary contacts.

- In October, Denny, Bob, MaryBeth Murray and a supervisor at Jessica Melquist's Burn Boot Camp joined Nocatee Community Manager, David Ray, on a tour of the Greenway in Nocatee. We identified several locations we could install exercise stations along the path. For the last several months we've been debating the pros and cons of various exercise equipment we could build and/or buy to put into these spaces. A lot of that discussion hinges on how much money we have as a club to spend on these things and what kind of station equipment we ultimately want to install. Denny and Bob are committed to try to have a resolution on the matter before Bob's Rotary year as President ends on June 30.



- Recent vandalism near the pavilion area in Nocatee has delayed our water bottle refill stations project at the moment. Facility Manager for St. Johns County Parks & Rec, Teddy Meyer, says they are waiting for the installation of security cameras at that location before re-focusing on the logistics for the

stations. There's been interest from the Parks & Rec Foundation, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach as well as from the Men's Club of Del Webb on possibly partnering on this project once it gets the green light. We'll let you know!

CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT

To realize our club's potential through increased membership and engagement; expanded diversity, equity, inclusion and service; and enhanced fellowship and comfort.

CLUB'S VISION STATEMENT

A vibrant, diverse and inclusive Rotary club that is widely recognized for highly effective programs and projects within a framework of friendship and service.

CLUB'S CORE VALUES

Fellowship•Integrity•Diversity•Service•Leadership

Rubber Duck Race Sponsorships are Quacking

In the last couple of weeks several businesses have confirmed their sponsorships for this year's Rubber Duck Race. They include:

- [The Morris Center](#)
- [Nesting Place Interiors](#)
- [Primrose School in Nocatee](#)
- [St. Johns Eye Associates](#)
- [Vystar Credit Union](#)
- [Wells Fargo Bank](#)



Team Duck Bill takes the credit for most of these sponsorships (well done, Denny's team!). Team Quack (Gary Smith's team) and Team Webbed Feet (Bob Wiltfong's team) have some catching up to do! **This year's Rubber Duck Race takes place on May 21st at Noon at the Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill restaurant.**



President
Bob Wiltfong



Secretary
Rosemary Lorenz



Treasurer
Sean Smith



President-elect
Josh Hull



Community Service Chair
Denny Baldwin



Membership Chair
MaryBeth Murray



Sergeant-at-Arms
Linda Lomax



Program Chair
Karen Everett



**Rotary Foundation Chair/
International Service Chair**
Andy Erickson



General Counsel
Edward Sarnowski

Comments, questions or inquiries about the 32081.Rotarian?
Please contact the Editor, Bob Wiltfong, at rotarybob1@gmail.com.

Interested in joining the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra?
Please contact our Membership Chair, MaryBeth Murray, at (904)-657-9393 or email us at pontevedrarotary@gmail.com

