



All Hands on Duck!

LAST CALL FOR RUBBER DUCK RACE SPONSORS & WHAT EVERY MEMBER CAN DO TO HELP



MEET THE PEOPLE OUR DUCK RACE IS HELPING

BARB HORTON AT LEARN TO READ



CLOTHING DRIVE FOR NEW AMERICANS

CLUB EFFORT STARTS ON APRIL 18



NEXT REGULAR CLUB MEETING

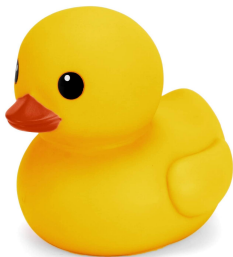
TUESDAY, APRIL 18 AT 7:30AM

TREYLOR PARK RESTAURANT IN NOCATEE

ZOOM: ID - 831 0429 0873; PASSWORD - 252056

THE.32081.ROTARIAN

Waddle You Do to Help Us Get this Year's Duck Race to the Finish Line?



Last call for sponsors of our 2023 Rubber Duck Race benefitting Bit of Faith Ranch, Learn to Read of St. Johns County, Port in a Storm, and our own Ponte Vedra Rotary Foundation!

There are various levels of sponsorship available from \$5000 (Platinum) to \$500 (Patron), so please consider funding a sponsorship yourself or asking a business friend in the next few days. Sponsorships can be paid via our Duck Race website (www.pontevedrarotaryduckrace.com) or by giving a check payable to the Ponte Vedra Rotary Foundation to our club Treasurer, Sean Smith. All sponsorships come with social media promotion, so please don't forget to email the sponsor's logo image to Duck Race Chair, Gary Smith at garysmith317@gmail.com.

If giving a sponsorship is not feasible for you, then we ask that you buy at least 10 duckies for the Race (click on the link above to go to our Race website and buy them). The Rubber Duck Race is our club's annual

fundraiser to help us build our Foundation's endowment. The club Foundation, in turn, grants money to worthy charities in our area. The more money we raise selling ducks, the more impactful our club becomes with service to others in our area.

In addition, all club members are expected to book out Sunday, May 21, 11am-1pm, to join us at Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill as a volunteer for the actual Race. By doing so, you'll witness thousands of rubber ducks taking flight from the Palm Valley Nocatee Bridge and splashing into the waters of the intracoastal below for the race!



Who are These Charities We're Raising Money For?

As mentioned above, the Rubber Duck Race not only helps build our club Foundation, it also helps 3 specific charities in our area. Club members selected these organizations as benefactors of the Race earlier this Rotary year. But what exactly do these charities do and who are the people involved in them? Read on.



Bit of Faith Ranch is a Ponte Vedra-based horse ranch that gives families impacted by autism & related disabilities a chance for horseback riding, recreation & respite.

"I love being able to share horsemanship skills and equestrian appreciation with the upcoming generations, and to be able to do that while promoting inclusion is the absolute best." - *Tammy Romanczuk, Founder*



Learn to Read of St. Johns County is a volunteer-based organization that provides free one-on-one literacy & English as a second language (ESOL) to individuals in St. Johns & Putnam Counties.

"I can't say enough about Learn to Read. They are ready to embrace and help anyone who wants to learn or increase their English skills. They also have classes for GED students and people working to become citizens. All of their services are free of charge, and the tutors are all volunteers. I am proud to be part of that organization!" - *Barb Horton, Volunteer*



Port in the Storm is a St. Augustine-based center that provides shelter, food clothing & programs for homeless youth.



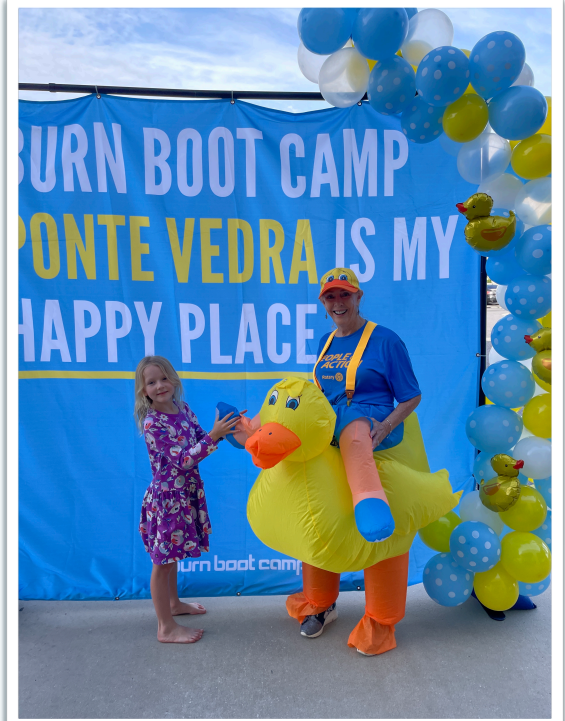
"It's an important program. We're giving these kids a chance to not start a cycle of long-term homelessness, to change their trajectory into one of stability." - *Judy Dembowski, executive director of St. Augustine Society, the nonprofit that runs Port in the Storm*

Thank You Burn Boot Camp!

Thanks to the leadership of club member, Jessica Melquist, Burn Boot Camp sponsored a week of Rubber Duck Race themed days at the gym. The week started with members wearing yellow on Monday and ended with an Easter egg hunt for children (complete with a few hidden rubber ducks in there) on Saturday morning. Every day, members were encouraged to donate to our efforts through cash donations and/or adopting ducks. Thanks to all!



Burn Boot Camp members and trainers wear yellow to support Rubber Duck Race week.



Club member, Linda Lomax, shares a moment with a child of a Burn Boot Camper.



A Burn Boot Camper gives a high-five to club member, Linda Lomax, in her duck costume.



Club member, Jessica Melquist, celebrates a rubber duck hunt with the Easter Bunny & a colleague.



Rotary Club President, Bob Wiltfong,
2022-2023.

From the President's Desk

Is it fair to all concerned? This is the first principle in Rotary's Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do.

The Rubber Duck Race is our club's annual fundraiser to help build the club Foundation. At the beginning of this Rotary year, our club decided to make a "Big Hairy Audacious Goal" (BHAG) of building our Foundation's endowment to at least \$50,000. That number is important because it will allow the Foundation to, basically, grow off itself.

In order for us to accomplish that club goal, all members have been asked to do their part for this year's Race.

- **Have you solicited a corporate sponsor?**
- **Have you offered to sponsor the race yourself?**
- **Have you bought ducks for the race?**
- **Have you asked your friends and family to do the same?**
- **Have you cleared your calendar to be at the event on May 21st as a volunteer?**

If not, I ask you: is that fair to all concerned?

Follow the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra



Spring Clothing Drive Begins!



Some of the people helped by the YMCA's New American Welcome Center.

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra at Nocatee is continuing its enthusiastic support of the YMCA New American Welcome Center (NAWC) with a Spring Clothing Drive. For those new to our Rotary Club, the NAWC (7373 Old Kings Road South in Jacksonville) helps immigrants make the challenging transition into American society. This is a prelude to their becoming fully contributing new American citizens. Our club has already made generous contributions to NAWC through their Oates Community Food Pantry. The new Spring Clothing Drive will nurture and strengthen our Club's relationship with them further.

The drive will begin at the regular Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra meeting at the Trelor Park (Nocatee Town Center) at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, April 18th. It will end at the Trelor Park at the conclusion of our regular meeting 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 16th. We are seeking new or gently used, clean clothing of all sorts that is free of stains or rips and tears (for

men, women, kids or infants). Paired shoes and handbags, linens and towels, stuffed animals or small toys will also be eagerly sought and appreciated by our NAWC friends.

What better way can one find to start Spring Cleaning at home? Our suggestion is that each of us attempt to select at least a paper shopping bag's worth of unneeded or excess clothing. Once the process is started we fully expect the mood of sharing and giving to gain momentum, with each of us finding much more to donate from the bounty of our lives in this blessed land of plenty than we expected.

Have some questions? Need a special pickup arrangement? Call or text Andy Erickson at 401-263-7625 (C). Start now to spread the word to your family and friends!

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS & SPEAKERS

April 13, 6-7pm: President's Office Hours at Greenwise Cafe in Nocatee (share a drink or a conversation with our club Prez)

April 18, 7:30am-8:30am: Regular Club Meeting - Guest Speaker: - Mark LeMaire: Director of United Way of St. Johns Co.

May 2, 7:30am-8:30am: Regular Club Meeting - We will honor a local school teacher and student for their accomplishments this year

Celebrations

April 18 - Ian Aguilar marks his 5th anniversary as a member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra

April 21 - Eddie & Jamie Sarnowski celebrate their 11th Wedding Anniversary



YOU'RE INVITED

MONTE CARLO NIGHT

APRIL 13, 2023

7:00 PM

CROSSWATER HALL

GAMING TABLES, FOOD,
DRINKS, MUSIC AND MORE!

RSVP NOW

TEXT MONTECARLO23 TO 76278
OR SCAN BELOW



This fundraiser, hosted by the YMCA at Nocatee
Advisory Board, benefits individuals with diverse abilities.

Mark Your Calendars!

APRIL

April 13: President's Office Hours at Greenwise Cafe, 6-7pm

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

April 18: Regular Club Meeting, 7:30am-8:30am

MAY

May 2: Regular Club Meeting, 7:30am-8:30am

May 3: Club Board Meeting, 6:30pm-8pm, Location TBD

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 18: Regular Club Meeting, 7:30am-8:30am

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

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

April 4 Meeting Recap



Zeke Paxton, President of Palm Valley Rotary and hiker extraordinaire, was our speaker. He awed us with his dedication to hiking, especially the 2198 mile long Appalachian Trail on which he'll embark soon in the name of Polio Plus. What an adventure! You can check out his progress through the FarOut app (faroutguides.com) and ideally support his hike with your donation to Polio Plus.



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MaryBeth Murray



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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.

