



Empty Nest Syndrome

ANOTHER
SUCCESSFUL RUBBER
DUCK RACE IS IN THE
BOOKS!



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

MIKE DEMARCO
BECOMES LATEST
MEMBER OF THE CLUB



THE LOVE VOTE

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW
OPEN FOR THIS YEAR'S
"BEST OF THE BEST" AT
THE PV RECORDER



NEXT REGULAR CLUB MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 6 AT 7:30AM
TREYLOR PARK RESTAURANT IN
NOCATEE

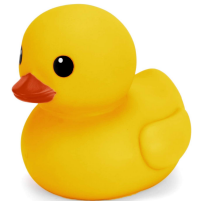
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THE.32081.ROTARIAN

Fly Fly Birdie: 2023 Rubber Duck Race



This Memorial Day,
we remember all the
soldiers, sailors,
airmen, airwomen,
and Marines who
did not return home.
Service above self.



3000 rubber ducks fall from the sky into the Intracoastal waters for
the 2023 Rubber Duck Race.

On Sunday, May 21, we launched 3000 rubber ducks into the Intracoastal waters of Palm Valley for our annual Rubber Duck Race. Spectators at nearby Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill grabbed their phones to take photos of this unusual sight and Rotary volunteers quickly surrounded the birds to make sure no duck was left behind. Final numbers from the event are still being tabulated, but it's safe to say we raised tens of thousands of dollars for some great causes.

Thank you to our wonderful event partners including the National Honor Society of Ponte Vedra High School, Bit of Faith Ranch, and Learn to Read of St. Johns County for selling all those ducks! Thank you to event chair, Gary Smith, and all the Rubber Duck Race committee members — in particular Denny Baldwin, Win Everett, Jim Huster, Linda Lomax, Ron McVay, MaryBeth Murray, and David Torres — for their hard work! Finally, a big thank you to YOU, all our club members, who either sponsored the race, sold or bought ducks, and/or showed up on race day to help out! We definitely demonstrated the Rotary mantra of “People of Action!”



Thank you to the Ponte Vedra Recorder for their front-page write-up of our Rubber Duck Race! Click on the image to the right to read the full online article.

Rotary duck race continues building tradition



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra held its annual Rubber Duck Race on May 21. Many kayakers helped in the effort of coralling 3,000 rubber ducks after they were dropped into the Intracoastal Waterway from the Palm Valley Bridge.



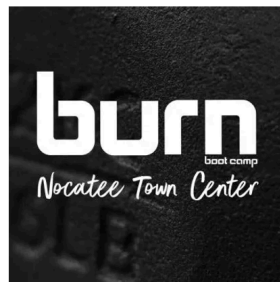
Photos courtesy of Ron Sutton.

Thank You Rubber Duck Race Sponsors!!

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Patron Sponsors



The Baldwin Family



Linda Lomax



New Member Induction



L-R: Club President, Bob Wiltfong, Carla DeMarco, Mike DeMarco, Mike's sponsor, Denny Baldwin, and club Membership Chair, MaryBeth Murray.

On May 16, we inducted our newest member, Mike DeMarco, in the company of his wife, Carla. Mike is a military vet, father of two, proud dog owner, and a trained chef to top it all off! We're blessed to have you in the

club, Mike! At our next club meeting on June 6, we'll welcome Tom Hamilton as a Rotarian. This will mark the third straight club meeting of new member inductions!

If you know someone who embraces Rotary's "Service Above Self" mantra and enjoys fellowship and fun in the process, contact our membership chair, MaryBeth Murray, at (904)-657-9393 or email us at pontevedrarotary@gmail.com.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

- **June 6, 7:30am-8:30am: CLUB MEETING** Speaker - Dom Sanfilippo, President, CMIT Solutions - Cybersecurity Expert
- **June 10, 7-9am: COMMUNITY SERVICE** Trash Pickup at Nocatee Splash Park
- **June 20, 7:30am-8:30am: CLUB MEETING**
- **June 30, 2-4pm: SOCIAL GATHERING** Tour of SJC Sheriff's Training Facility in St. Augustine

Vote Early & Vote Often



Nominations are now open for the Ponte Vedra Recorder's "Best of the Best" awards!

Our club is currently nominated in two categories under the **"Community"** category. They are **Best Charity Event** (our Rubber Duck Race) and **Best Civic Group** (which we won last year).

You can vote for us starting June 12 by going [here](#). Voting ends July 24 and you are allowed to vote as many times as you want.



Celebrations

May 30 Club member, Dean Jones, celebrates his birthday!

June 1 Club member, Eli Tavaréz, celebrates two years as a Rotarian!



June 6 Club member, Jim Huster, celebrates eight years of marriage with his wife, Sally!

June 7 Club member, Luis Monegro's wife, Cathy, celebrates her birthday!

June 10 Club member, Andy Erickson, celebrates 62 years of marriage with his wife, Polly!





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

From the President's Desk

“Lower your expectations and move on.”

This past Friday night, I was visiting with some of our fellow club members and their spouses at a happy hour event at Really Good Beer here in Nocatee (see photo), and we found ourselves wringing our hands over this year's Rubber Duck Race: what went wrong, what could have been better, etc.

That's when Andy Erickson, who was not directly involved in the planning of the event, but was a huge supporter as a sponsor and experienced the race as most people from the outside experienced it, chimed in with “I thought it was a fabulous event.” It was a simple statement with a big impact on my perspective.



Happy Hour crew at Really Good Beer
this past Friday evening.

The reality is when you're involved in the work of planning a big event like the duck race you tend to lose perspective on how the people you're planning it for see it. Ironically, they see it like a duck swimming in the water (calm on the surface) while, as a volunteer, you see all the paddling underneath.

To underscore Andy's comment, Denny Baldwin shared a story with the group of a visit he and his wife, Gail, made to Ireland. They signed up for a full-day excursion to the **Dingle Peninsula**, and when they arrived, it was completely fogged over. You couldn't see a thing. After a lot of complaining from the busload of tourists, the Irish tour guide finally turned to them and

said, "In Ireland, we have a saying that I encourage you all to embrace right now: Lower your expectations and move on."

Ha! That's funny. However, it's actually a really good note for a person like me. I'm the type of person who can be a little annoying to be around sometimes (my kids can vouch for that observation). I want so badly to make good things great that I have a hard time just relaxing and enjoying a job well done. I can be a bit exhausting sometimes. To that end, I want you to know...

The people who showed up for our duck race on May 21 saw a Rotary club fully engaged in making this year's event the best we've ever done. They saw a group of Rotarians pulling together a wide variety of people and elements to raise tens of thousands of dollars for charities in our backyard. We did great!! I'm super proud of us. Thank you, my fellow Rotarians, for a job well done!



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.

Follow the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra



CLUB'S



Linked in

 **YouTube**



President
Bob Wiltfong



Secretary
Rosemary Lorenz



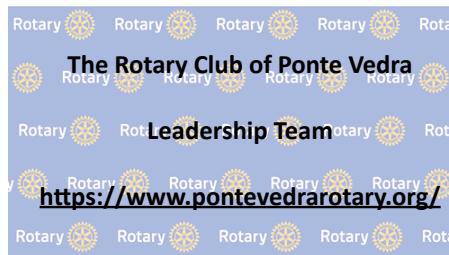
Treasurer
Sean Smith



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.

