



# THE QUACKER

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville

October 20, 2024

## Events

October 22nd  
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

November 9th  
[The Reedy River Greenville: Adopt-A-Road trash pickup](#)

November 12th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

November 14th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Club Board Meeting](#)

## Years of Service

Uta S. Samuel  
10-11-2011  
13 Years

## Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

## Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

## Club Meeting Location



**DON'T FORGET: MEETING TIME CHANGE -** Socializing begins at 6:00pm with the meeting at 6:30pm

Club Meetings are held at Holly Tree Country Club in Simpsonville. Come join us at 6:00pm for socializing, followed by the meeting at 6:30pm. The address is 500

Golf Club Drive, Simpsonville, SC. **Some GPS apps do not map correctly if you select "Holly Tree Country Club."** Be sure to use the address to get to the correct location.

**REMINDER:** Beginning January 1, 2024, Club dues no longer cover the cost of your meal at meetings. Any items ordered at Holly Tree Country Club, whether food or drink, are the responsibility of the ordering Club Member.

## Meeting Program/Speaker

By Ann H. Golden

*This schedule is subject to change. Please check each newsletter for the most current information.*

10-22-24 - Club Assembly - *Duck Derby from A to Z* - get your "quack" on for the race

11-12-24 - Regular Meeting - *Rysheeka Bush, District Governor's Visit*

11-26-24 - No meeting due to Thanksgiving holiday

12-10-24 - Christmas Party

12-24-24 - No meeting due to Christmas holiday

## This month is . . .

### Economic & Community Development

Nearly 800 million people live on less than \$1.90 a day. Rotary members are passionate about providing sustainable solutions to poverty.

Our members and our [foundation](#) work to strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

We provide training and access to well-paying jobs and financial management institutions. We create opportunities to help individuals and communities thrive financially and socially. Consider our contributions to the many charities who benefited from the money raised at the Reedy River Duck Derby each year.

In other parts of the world, Rotarians are:

- **Breaking the cycle of poverty for women:** Most of the women living in rural Guatemala do not have the collateral to get loans from regulated financial institutions. The Rotary Club of Guatemala de la Ermita helped 400 local women complete financial literacy courses so they could pool their money and fund their own microlending program.
- **Skills development, business training:** In Esmeraldas, Ecuador, Rotary members helped grant more than 250 microloans and train more than 270 community members in sewing, baking, plumbing, microcredit, business management, and leadership.
- **Sustainable farming:** In west Cameroon, soil erosion and loss of soil fertility have significantly reduced farmers' harvests. Rotary members gave farmers the skills they needed

to improve soil fertility, control soil erosion, and market their produce. The results: increased crop yields and profits.

The Rotary Foundation spent \$9.2 million to grow local economies and reduce poverty last year.

## Duck Derby Sponsorships a Must!

At Tuesday's meeting we will be talking through the sponsorship process, a necessary part of the Reedy River Duck Derby. We need sponsors so we can rent the ducks, produce signage, hire a person to help with PR, and purchase the popular souvenirs in bulk to be ready for May 3, 2025. We don't make any money until ducks start getting "adopted."

The document of past sponsors is something you can use if you don't have any leads for sponsors. Find the link to the document [here](#) which is live and our Sponsorship Chair, Ann Golden, lives and dies by this document. Treating it as your own document to do as you wish is not cool. You can add a new sponsor to the bottom of the spreadsheet and complete the requisite information. Updates to existing lines on the spreadsheet should go through Ann.



We have sponsors from past Rotarians that need to be approached. Can you be that person? Look for the names Wendy Green and Rebecca Evans and see if you have a connection to reach out and seek sponsorship for the 2025 Derby.

Need some suggestions on how to proceed? Try this list:

Overall chair for 2025– Ann Golden

VID Party Chair – Valerie Cook

Prize Chair – Laurie Rappl

Committee - **All club members are committee members** and, as such, we *all* contribute to the cause by doing our part and asking businesses for their support.

- **Sponsorships:** 3 types:
  - Corporate (cash)
  - In-Kind (any *service* they can provide, be it media, logistics, technology, etc.)
  - Prizes - (any *goods* from groceries to cash to gift cards for dinner, oil changes, etc.)
- **If you have a business**, please be a sponsor. If you have a job, please ask your employer to sponsor. If you are not employed, use your own network to find sponsors, such as your service providers – doctors, dentists, plumbers, grocers, banks, dry cleaners – anybody. Hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues are very good prize sponsors.
- **Prizes**, if possible, should come as gift cards for three reasons: We can give those out easily at the Derby, without hauling actual prizes, AND we want winners to visit the place of business and perhaps become a new customer. That's when the prize sponsor realizes the value to themselves in donating. It also prevents having to ship heavy gifts anywhere.
- **Sponsorship Form**
  - there is a digital version available to fill out on the [ReedyRiverDuckDerby.com](https://ReedyRiverDuckDerby.com) website. Scroll down until you see the box for Sponsorships. You can send your contacts there or
  - use the paper forms that have been handed out at the last few meetings and emailed to you. We have more if you need more paper brochures, or you can print out the brochure you were emailed.

### Approaching sponsors:

1. Be able to verbalize what Rotary is and does and who Reedy River Rotary is and does.
2. Be able to verbalize who, what, where, when and why the derby happens, where the money goes, and the benefits of sponsorship.
3. Approach potential sponsors, overcoming objections, asking for the sell. In the approach, it might be important to start by asking if the Company financially supports local, non-profit charitable organizations. Then ask to schedule a time to meet. Face-

to-face meetings are the best way to make the sale. **Emailing and hoping is not a viable strategy.** Phone calls and texts (if you have a relationship) work.

4. **Try first to obtain cash sponsor** at the highest possible level, with step-down value, if necessary, then in-kind and prize sponsorships as fallbacks if target will not do cash. Be creative and politely persistent. When going back to a sponsor who has been with us, ask if they will go up a level. *Please go back to any sponsor you have previously brought in.*
5. **Adhere to Sponsor registration deadline** – necessary for sponsor to be included when Adoption Papers are printed. It is also important to get invoicing information and follow through. This should be provided on the Sponsor Registration Form. Please check the completed form for the information needed and that it is legible.
6. **Communicate with Sponsor Chair** ([anngolden@charter.net](mailto:anngolden@charter.net)) Ann will be keeping a spreadsheet on all approaches made and results, but won't be able to update if you do not inform her. Feel free to make a copy and keep your own spreadsheet or notes and report information to her. Please email her any paper registration forms you receive and let her know if a digital one is expected or has been submitted. If you secured a verbal sponsorship but did not get a completed sponsorship form, please give the company name, contact name, phone, email, company address, type of sponsorship and dollar value. This also serves as our Very Important Duck (VID) invitation list, so contact info is a must.
7. **Booth on Derby Day** We need to know if they want a booth (\$1500 level and up) and if they need electricity and furnishings.
8. **Logo to use on PR materials** Be sure to ask that a company logo be sent to Eric Krichbaum. At that point, if it is for cash, Charities Treasurer Mark Bacon will invoice the company. Logos will not go on the Reedy River Duck Derby website until the invoice is paid.
9. **Other information** You can give Ann any other information about the sponsorship if appropriate. Keep all your efforts documented by date so that you don't lose track of where you are in bringing in that sponsor. Since we expect most sponsorship to submit digitally this year, make certain to notify Ann, Mark, and Rami Michael (Logistics Chair) if a booth is desired.
10. Not sure what to do? Call Ann Golden with any questions – 864-704-2518
11. Start now!

Who/what businesses do you know, or have a working relationship with, that would consider a level of sponsorship that ranges from \$10,000 to \$750?

- \$10,000 - Champion Duck
- \$7,500 - Million Buck Duck
- \$5,000 - Struttin' Duck
- \$2,500 - Super Duck
- \$1,500 - Feathered Friend
- \$750 - Quacker Backer

Need help getting started? Ask a seasoned Rotarian in our Club as they are here to help and to promote your success.

Bottom line - we all need to be out contacting businesses *now* and working to bring in the sponsor and capital it takes to run a successful event. Let's do this!

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## Service/Rotary Opportunities



Take advantage of these service, learning, or meet-up opportunities coming up. More information and the opportunity to sign up are available on [DACdb](#).

### **POSTPONED UNTIL 2025 - Tree Planting with Trees Upstate**

**11-9-24 - Adopt-A-Road Clean Up** - 9am-Noon - 202 Conestee Road (in front of Bosco Baby's Restaurant and Catering) - Club members will be picking up trash along Conestee Lake Road. This event will fulfill the Club's quarterly obligation to pick up trash as participants in the Greenville County Adopt-A-Road program. Wear clothes appropriate for picking up trash, bring a hat and sunscreen/bug spray if it is sunny. All other supplies will be provided.

**12-7-24 - Greenville Poinsettia Christmas Parade** - ~4pm-8pm - Downtown Greenville - Join Club Members as they walk with Quacky in the Christmas Parade. We need people to help put the float together (ideas appreciated). Quacky will be the centerpiece and we'll decorate the trailer with festive decorations. We need someone to be Shades, so let us know if that will be you.

**12-8-24 - Carolina Youth Symphony** - 2pm - 5pm - The best type of volunteering brings a pleasurable experience for your time commitment. Club members usher for this stellar holiday program with music provided by three outstanding youth orchestras within the CYS program.

**12-10-24 - Club Christmas Party** - Time TBA - River Walk Clubhouse. More information coming on this event, but please mark your calendar so you can join us as it will take the place of our 2nd Tuesday December meeting.

Remember to register for the above at [DACdb](#) and follow instructions within each volunteer opportunity above that may require a second sign-up on the organizing group's website.

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## **Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities**





**Feed & Seed - 701 Easley Bridge Road, Suite 6010, Greenville, SC** - The fresh food box programs provide individuals facing food insecurity with a healthy variety of fresh produce, including items sourced from local farmers. Feed & Sees relies on the generous support of volunteers to help us pack boxes in a warehouse which will be delivered to sites in Pickens, Oconee and Abbeville counties.

What to expect on packing day: Arrive at Feed & Seed between 10:15 and 10:30 so that you have time to sign in, wash your hands, and put on hairnets and gloves. Once all volunteers have arrived, we will circle up to discuss our Fresh Food Box programs and go over food safety guidelines. We are a GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) facility and do require all volunteers to comply with the following expectations:

- Closed-toed shoes required.
- No shorts or dresses.
- Hairnets are required. PPE will be provided.
- Beard Nets are required for the bearded folk. PPE will be provided.
- Gloves are required. PPE will be provided. Hand-washing will be required prior to putting on gloves.
- No Jewelry Allowed. (exception plain, solid bands).
- No Food or Drinks in the warehouse area.
- No Personal Bags in the warehouse area.

New volunteers must complete a waiver prior to their first volunteer experience! Click [here](#) for Feed & Seed website for more information and sign waiver. **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

**Meals on Wheels** - Deliver hope, friendship, independence and more. When you get involved with Meals on Wheels, you are delivering so much more than daily nourishment. You deliver friendship to those who spend their days alone. You deliver independence, allowing people to age in their homes with dignity. You deliver hope to those often forgotten. Volunteer your time, refer someone who needs help, or make a donation. No matter how you get involved, you'll deliver more than meals. [Volunteer Application | Meals On Wheels Greenville](#). Prudence Taylor regularly volunteers with Meals on Wheels and would be a source of information if you have questions. **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

**The Children's Museum of the Upstate** - Opportunities are available on October 26 and 27 to

volunteer. Spread creativity and empower children as a volunteer. [Volunteer - TCMU Upstate \(tcmupstate.org\)](http://tcmupstate.org). **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

**Trees Upstate** - is a nonprofit organization founded in 2005. Their mission is to **plant**, **promote**, and **protect** trees in the Upstate. They **plant** trees in parks, schools, and neighborhoods, **promote** the benefits of trees, and **protect** by providing education and technical support to help inform policies and systems change. Though they are dormant in the summer months, they will have volunteer opportunities at this link: [Volunteer - Trees Upstate](#). **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

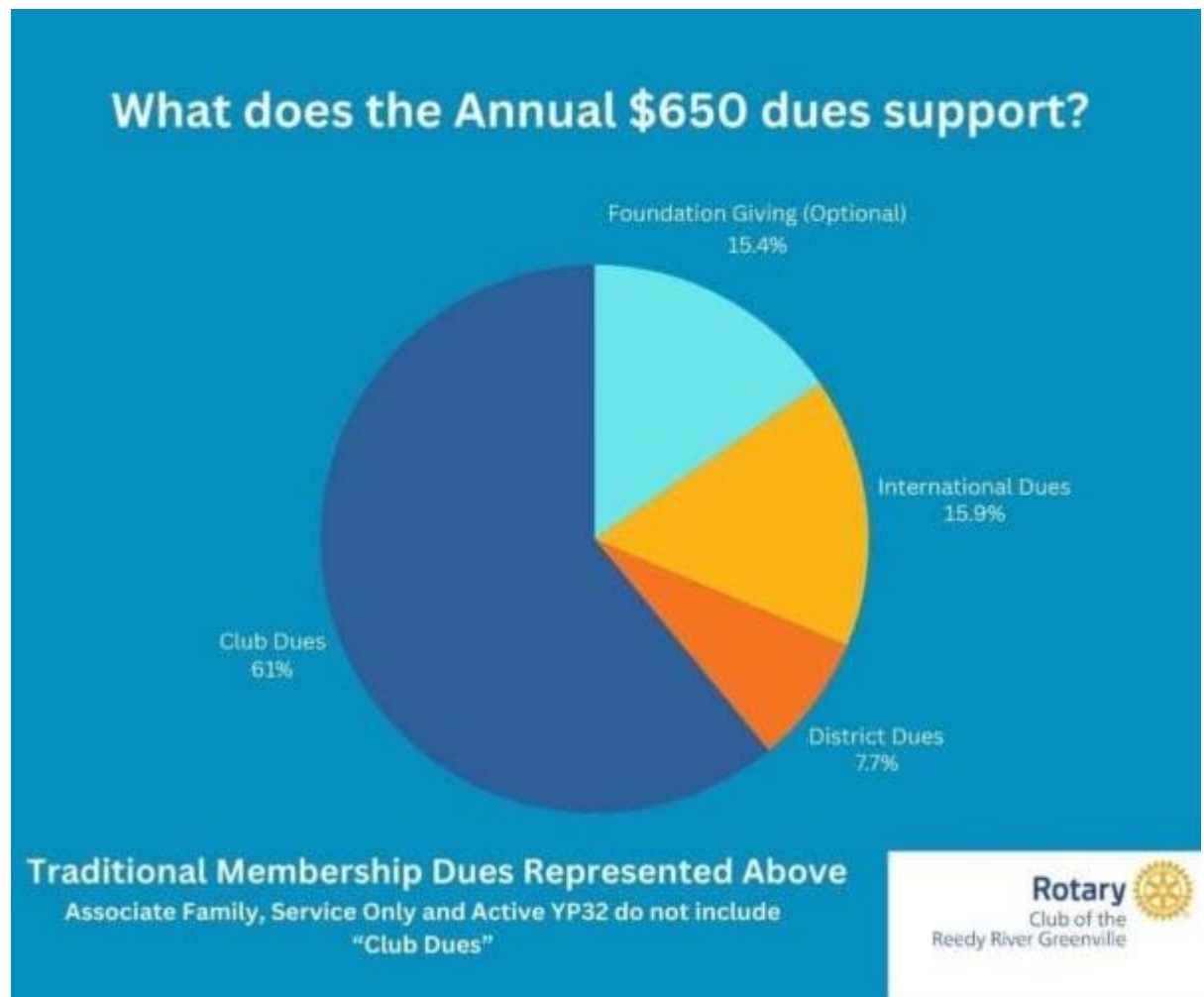
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## Rotary LIFE - Cornhole Edition

On a chilly fall evening, several Rotarians and their friends met at Unity Park for some yard games, specifically cornhole and golf putting. It's hard to say if the cornhole team of Laurie Rappl and Alan Calloway beat Rachel Rutkowski and Eric Krichbaum, but one observer can honestly say the competition was fun and entertaining. Afterwards, the group headed inside The Commons and grabbed some food and drink and had a delightful conversation. Watch for the next Rotary LIFE event and join us for fun and fellowship.

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## Invite Potential Members



As we learned from Al Blackmon, starting your ASK and ending your ASK to a potential new member are the hardest parts of the conversation when selecting someone who would make a great Rotarian. And we want great Rotarians interested in joining our mission in Rotary.

Membership matters, and if you're not aware of the number of members that ebb and flow

through the Club, you should be. The work we perform on the Reedy River Duck Derby is huge; it benefits our community and has been awarded "Best of the Upstate." A small Club like ours is truly stretched as we get into the meat of Derby season that just kicked off again for the 2025 Derby.

Solution? Membership! We want members that share our vision, and we have many different choices for people to become a member of our Club. Please review the options below; feel free to use the information in an effort to recruit new members.

### **Membership Types**

The Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville offers a variety of membership options:

#### **Traditional Membership**

A traditional member pays full price which totals at \$550/year or \$137.50/quarter.

#### **Family Membership**

A family membership includes a traditional membership as well as an additional associate membership for the traditional member's partner. Dues for this membership total at \$790/year for both members or \$197.50/quarter.

#### **Corporate Membership**

A corporate membership offers an organization or business to purchase a membership for an employee at \$550/year or \$137.50/quarter. Any additional employee that the organization or business wishes to purchase a membership for will cost \$220/year or \$55/quarter.

#### **Associate Membership**

The associate membership is offered to individuals who are aged 32 years or younger, or do not have the means to pay for full membership dues. It is expected that over time, this member will be able to upgrade to traditional membership status. The dues for this membership type are \$220/year or \$55/quarter. For this membership type, individuals are required to complete a minimum 6 hours of community service per quarter in order to remain eligible for this membership type.

#### **Service-Only Membership**

A service-only member is not expected to attend regular meetings and only participates in the community service opportunities organized by the Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville. The dues for this membership type are \$220/year or \$55/quarter. For this membership type, individuals are required to complete a minimum 6 hours of community service per quarter in order to remain eligible for this membership type.

#### *Rotary Foundation Giving*

Each member is recommended to give \$25/quarter or \$100/year to The Rotary Foundation in addition to their dues. This is an optional donation.

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## **Health & Happiness - Celebrating Veterans - November 11**

**Monday, November 11, the Greer Club is hosting** Health & Happiness in honor of our Veterans.

It will take place at La Joya Bar & Grill at 219 Trade Street in Greer. Bring a friend and join us from 5-7pm for \$4.50 margarita specials, networking, a 50/50 raffle, and bring contributions for homeless Veterans for Upstate Warrior Solution to distribute including the following warm-wather gear:

- gloves
- scarves
- warm hats

Health & Happiness events take place from 5pm to 7pm. **Please come and support Rotary and La Joya** as you mingle with Rotarians from other clubs in the area.

Each person attending pays \$5, entering them in a 50/50 raffle. During the gathering, tickets will

be drawn, and often prizes from the host space are contributed as well. The highlight of the event is half of the collected money for the Rotarian and the other half to the host Rotary Club's charity projects.

Potential members might enjoy this casual setting as a way to find out about our Club and what others are doing, so don't hesitate to bring a guest along. If you pay their \$5 50/50 fee and they win, that might be a great introduction to a potential new Rotarian. It's also a good way to drum up support for events Clubs are sponsoring or are putting on like the Reedy River Duck Derby.

**Bring \$5 to join in** on this fun-filled event, and you could win some excellent prizes or half the 50/50 pot.

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## Rotary Etiquette

Rysheeka Bush, District Governor of Rotary District 7750, will be attending our meeting with her message to our members on November 12.

It is customary when the Governor is introduced, that all members stand to show respect. This is also done at the end of the Governor's presentation. Let's do our part to show respect for Ms. Bush when she visits our Club.

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## Who Hides Ducks on a Cruise Ship?

### Meet the Quackers

*Reprinted from The Washington Post*  
Hannah Sampson



October 8, 2024

When Ilene Meckley packs for a cruise, she lays out the essentials: the changes of clothes, shoes, makeup, playing cards, electronics. And the ducks.

Dozens and dozens of rubber ducks. Need-their-own-suitcase amounts of ducks. Accessories for the ducks.

"We have some that come with little sunglasses that you put on and little hats," Meckley, 70, of Boynton Beach, Fla., said from her duck-filled stateroom on a Western Caribbean cruise last week.

She's part of a growing trend in the world of cruise ship travel, in which passengers carry aboard a raft of rubber or other duckyies and stash them on rails, in alcoves and in planters and eagerly await reports of their discovery on Facebook or Instagram.

"CONQUACKULATIONS!" read some tags accompanying a duck in recent months. "Oh, what Luck!



You found a Duck!" read others. Notes encourage people to keep or re-hide the ducks - and either way, to post their photos on social media.

The game has become so popular that it has even generated a backlash. Some passengers complain bitterly that their fellow cruisers are obsessed with duck hunting. One cruise operator bans the practice, while other lines appear to be safe spaces for ducks.

### **The Quacker Code**

Aaron Saunders, senior editor for news and features at Cruise Critic, said he encounters the duck trend on every cruise he takes on mainstream, big-ship cruise lines. The trend has been around for years, he said, but it "really started to take off" after the pandemic.

Today, the ducks nesting on cruise ships are not just your run-of-the-mill rubber yellow guy. Some have long eyelashes or wear jewelry. There are carefully crocheted versions and earring versions. Some look like pirates, pumpkins or other animals. They come from Amazon and Temu, dollar stores or individual 3D printers.

"I've seen costumed ducks. I've seen blinged-out ducks," Saunders said. "I've seen ducks in little captain's hats. I've seen ducks that look like Donald Trump."

Photos of them all frequently end up on the original Cruising Ducks group on Facebook, which was created in 2018 after one little girl and her family hid ducks on a cruise; it now has more than 285,000 members. Another ducks-on-ship group has over 75,000 members, and there are groups dedicated to sailing with ducks on specific cruise lines. More than one app is devoted to tracking ducks at sea.

Quackers, as some call themselves, tend to follow a code: They only hide their wares in public places, keeping them out of shops, pools and hot tubs.

Therese Lau, a Tampa-based travel agent, said she includes her social media accounts on cards that she attaches to ducks hoping that someone will tag her when they post their finds.

"I love to see who found them and where they are from," Lau, 45, wrote in an email. "It is almost like a modern day message in a bottle."

### **Pushback from Disney and Passengers**

For some outsiders, the practice isn't the fun it's quacked up to be.

The ducks "are tacky and detract from the beauty of the ship," one woman complained on a Cruise Critic Facebook post about the topic. Another reader chimed in: "I suppose it's cute if you are six."

"You'll have to take my word for it if you haven't experienced it first hand, but, the single most fascinating cult of people on the planet are people who hide and collect rubber ducks on cruise ships," one person wrote on X, going on to call them "insane."

Most cruise lines did not respond to questions about duck activities. MSC Cruises provided a statement saying it has no specific policy but that crew members regularly notice ducks "and believe the ongoing game of duck hide-and-seek is a fun, interactive way for guests to enjoy their vacations."

Carnival Cruise Line's brand ambassador, John Heald, has written about duck-related complaints multiple times over the past couple of years on his popular Facebook page. One person wrote in 2022 that they toss ducks in the trash when they find them.

In August, Heald wrote that he had been approached by a woman holding a duck as he went to get coffee on a ship one morning. Heald - a cruise industry personality so popular someone made a duck version of him - thought she might be offering him a gift.

"She got within spittle distance and spent the next three minutes, telling me that the 'duck thing had gotten out of control' and that other cruise lines have done the right thing by banning them," he wrote on Facebook. "I explained that it was just a little bit of fun and if the other cruise lines want to cancel that fun then that's entirely up to them."

Disney Cruise Line does not allow passengers to hide items in staterooms or public areas, according to several posts from a panel of contractors who answer questions about Disney trips. One planDisney panelist wrote in December that "Crew Members are removing any ducks they spot around the ship."

"I was advised that guests cannot hide things, such as rubber ducks in staterooms or public

areas," the panelist said. "I know that this is a popular thing to do for many cruisers onboard, but it sounds like it's being discouraged."

In February, another panelist wrote that the ducks were "a safety hazard" for younger passengers and caused "environmental impacts."

Saunders said he was trying to read a book and have a martini on a cruise last month when he noticed activity buzzing around him. People poked around behind his chair and through the blinds nearby. They were searching, they told him, for ducks.

"After this happened three or four times, I was a bit annoyed by it," he said. "It got to the point where I had to say, 'There's no ducks here.' Come on now. These were adults."

He said that as more people embrace ducking, complaints saying the "ducks are kind of out of control" are increasing. "Or in some cases, the people looking for the ducks are out of control."

### **'Just a Girl Who Loves Ducks'**

Superfans admit - with a laugh - that they can take the hobby to extremes. Some have made it a way of ship life.

Kelly May, 60, of Huntington Beach, Calif., has become known onboard as "The Duck Lady" for her duck-themed shirts and shoes and the many ducks she distributes on the eight to 10 cruises she takes a year. She even started a business called Cruising Quackers that sells clothes and accessories, including a "Quack for a Cause" line of fundraising ducks, and sometimes refers to herself and fellow fans as "Quackpots."

"It's paying joy forward one duck at a time," she said.

May organizes duck exchanges on the first day of every cruise and carries a special kit for newcomers with three ducks and tags; she calls it a "Taste of Quack." She said she and fellow passionate duck hiders are planning to take a cruise together - the Quack-tastic Duckers Cruise - early next year. The hobby "is addicting," May said.

Meckley, a life coach and motivational speaker who recently became a travel adviser, brings 200 to 250 ducks on each cruise. She chronicles some of her adventures on the Facebook group Cruising Duck Detectives. During a recent video call, her bed was covered in bags that say "just a girl who loves ducks."

She and her husband, Bob Clark, pack enough duck-themed T-shirts to wear for each day of a cruise; Bob packs a duck tie for dressier occasions. They'll pass out jewelry, activities like word searches and sometimes pens that say "You're ducking special."

Meckley said she understands why a cruise line like Disney's, with kids running around all over, might not allow the practice. But she said duck hunting could be enjoyed by all.

"Even a person who may not be into the idea of hiding and finding them," she said, "would always love watching the joy of someone finding them."

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## **Contribute to The Quacker**

If you are unable to use EzStory in DACdb, submit something for *The Quacker* by emailing the information to [megcoffey@yahoo.com](mailto:megcoffey@yahoo.com). Submissions must be received by the Wednesday prior to the next meeting.

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## **Club Mailing Address**

Please use this address for all club correspondence, remitting dues (unless you pay online), and Duck Derby business.

Rotary Club of Reedy River Greenville  
Box # 500  
325 Rocky Slope Rd, Suite 104  
Greenville, SC 29607



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## Club Meeting

The Reedy River Greenville  
Meets at Holly Tree Country Club (2nd & 4th Tuesdays Only)  
500 Golf Club Dr. Holly Tree Country Club  
Simpsonville, SC 29681  
Time: Tuesday at 06:30 PM

## Club Leaders

[Rachel Rutkowski](#)  
President

[Laurie M. Rapp](#)  
Treasurer

[Elizabeth Foster Clarke](#)  
Club Director  
Service Projects Chair

[Robert L Brown Jr.](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair

[Rami Elmarkiz-Sami Michael](#)  
President-Elect

[Mark William Bacon](#)  
Charities Committee Chair

[Meghan A. Coffey](#)  
Club Director  
RYLA Chair  
Bulletin Editor

[Prudence Ann Taylor](#)  
Secretary

[Alan Stewart Calloway](#)  
Club Director  
iPast President  
Membership Chair

[Ann H. Golden](#)  
Program Chair  
Club Director