

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW

Rotarian Courtney Dell greeted all Rotarians, visitors and guests with a smile and a warm, Pensacola Ballet greeting on a beautiful March day that was perfect kite flying weather. Rotarian Bill Dollarhide sold raffle tickets along with his guest, Tommy Eades. Mr. Eades is with Steinway Pianos where according to Father Jack, he is a “key man,” although he “soft pedals” this fact. President Alan called the meeting to order and asked the club to join him in reciting the Four Way Test. Thereafter, he called upon Rotarian Betty Gail Peters to lead us in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Alan then asked Father Jack Gray to introduce our guests of Rotarians, our visiting Rotarians and Rotarians with birthdays this week. Having no military guests, Father Jack led us in a “Happy Birthday You All” to all those celebrating birthdays. After Father Jack had provided Rotarians with some of his own brand of political humor, President Alan asked our guest to draw for the raffle which was worth \$74 to Rotarian Ed Ranelli.

President Alan then asked Rotarian

John Shaffer to introduce our speaker, Blair Simmons, who is plant manager for GE’s Pensacola Wind facility. Mr. Simmons began his career with GE in 1975 as an electro-mechanical apprentice. GE subsequently provided Mr. Simmons with the opportunity to obtain his degree in electrical engineering at Gannon University in Erie Pennsylvania. Mr. Simmons has held a number of management positions with GE culminating in his appointment to start GE’s manufacturing facility in Pensacola in 2000.

The Pensacola facility, previously operated as a manufacturing facility for Westinghouse was the ideal facility in just the right location to manufacture wind turbines. GE opened the plant in 2000 employing about 175 engineers and technicians with the goal of building at least one complete wind turbine during 2001 with dozens more set for manufacture the following year. By July of 2001, the new plant had produced not one, but two of the new wind turbines with another dozen in process. The plant suffered a serious setback, along with the rest of the nation, with the September 11th attacks and was forced

to temporarily cease operations. To date, the plant has produced 15,000 wind turbines and expects to become the largest producer later this year.

The plant produces 1.5 and 1.6 megawatt turbines as well as its largest model, a 2.75 megawatt wind turbine. Mr. Simmons told us that wind farms are very common in Europe where they are used to generate all of the power needs of small towns and cities. The technology is still not available to generate enough power for large cities.

Mr. Simmons told us that GE’s Pensacola plant employs about 500 people locally. He had high praise for the quality of the local workforce and its determination to get the job done. In addition to producing high quality products, the plant employees are involved in all types of community giving including United Way, Council on Aging, Junior Achievement, Habitat for Humanity and Relay for Life just to name a few.

After answering questions from club members, President Alan thanked Mr. Simmons for a very informative program and adjourned the meeting.

ROTARY WHEELS

- ❖ Didjknow that Charles Gund has a long-standing role assisting Judge Vinson and the Fellows Fund with financial supervision?
- ❖ Or that Ron Martin and the Beggs-Lane legal firm are proud of more than a century of service here?
- ❖ If you didn’t drive by Pensacola State College’s campus during the azalea peak, you missed a treat. Ed Meadows’ beautifully manicured bushes (of which

there are many) illustrated the true value of landscaping.

- ❖ Many things happening at the National Museum of Naval Aviation. They’ve some modernization in progress, and in May they’ll host another naval symposium and the beginning of the youth academy. If our figures are right, 2012 is the museum’s 60th anniversary. Gerry Hoeing’s a busy man these days.

2011-2012 Club Officers

◆ President	Alan B. Bookman
◆ Past President	C. Ray Jones
◆ President Elect	Innes C. Richards
◆ Secretary	Betty B. Roberts
◆ Treasurer	Ronald E. Jackson
◆ Sergeant At Arms	Tim Kane
◆ Historian	John Appleyard

Bulletin Information

Jeff Lewis, Editor 595-4070
Web Site: www.pensacolarotary.org
E-Mail: rcopens@bellsouth.net
Kerry Langley, Executive Secretary
Office, Room 323 Brent Building
P.O. Box 528 Pensacola, FL 32591-0528
Phone: 434-0684 Fax: 434-6471

Clubs Available for Makeup

Five Flags	New World Landing	Mon.	12:15 pm
Gulf Breeze	Legends Restaurant	Tues.	7:00 am
	Andrews Institute		
Milton	Red Barn on Hwy. 90	Tues.	12:00 pm
Seville	Seville Quarter	Tues.	5:30 pm
Perdido	Triggers Restaurant	Wed.	7:30 am
Cantonment	Scenic Hills Country Club	Wed.	12:15 pm
Cordova	Gulf Coast Kid's House	Thur.	7:00 am
Pace	Stonebrook Village	Thur.	7:00 am
Suburban West	Pensacola Yacht Club	Thur.	12:00 pm
Navarre	The Tuscan Grill	Thur.	12:00 pm
	Hidden Creek Golf Course		
Pensacola North	Asbury Place	Friday	12:00 pm
	Cokesbury Methodist		

District Governor

Jeanne Quave
www.rotary6940.org

Assistant District Governor

Ted Kirchharr

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Birthdays for the week of
March 13th through March 19th**

Doug Werber – March 13
born in Cleveland, OH, in Rotary 7 years

Charlie Sherrill (Jr.) - March 15
born in Lawton, OK, in Rotary 19 years

Andrea Farage – March 17
born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 9 years

DeDe Flounlacker – March 17
born in Blountsville, AL, in Rotary less than one year joined Jan 2012

PRAYER AND PLEDGE

March 13
Prayer/Pledge: Nancy Maloy
Sunshine: Scott Grissett

March 20
Prayer/Pledge: Leonard Swartz
Sunshine: Chris Kelly

GREETERS AND TICKET SALES

March 13
Greeters: Lewis Doman and Peter Doyle
Ticket Sales: Leon Dulion and Morris Eaddy

March 20
Greeters: Bill Elebash and Evon Emerson
Ticket Sales: Roger Enzor and Andrea Farage

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

March
13 - Capt. Kevin Miller - National Flight Academy
20 - Tyler Kercher - State Director, Florida SkillsUSA
27 - Marney Needles - IMPACT 100

The Rotary Club of Pensacola
P. O. Box 528
Pensacola, FL 32591-0528

