

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW

On this pleasant April Fools' Day, club members received warm greetings from David Bear and Tim Kane as they arrived for the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Pensacola. Upon entering, those feeling sufficiently lucky were able to purchase raffle tickets from Brian Bell and Howard Bell, who managed to amass a \$56 prize.

At the appointed time, President Stafford called the meeting to order and led those assembled in the Four Way Test. Earl Hutto offered prayer and guided the Club in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Nathan Kahn celebrated his birthday by winning the raffle and a set of baseball tickets. Sunshine was provided by Sally Fox, who also introduced visiting Rotarians, guests of the club, and our military guests.

Several announcements preceded our weekly program. Notably, President Stafford encouraged members to attend the forthcoming District Conference, which is being held in Pensacola. Club members will only need to cover half of the cost associated with the District Conference – the Club will cover the balance. Additionally, President Stafford mentioned that the Club will be making several trips to Costa Rica to deliver wheelchairs. Those interested in participating should contact Cliff Payne. Finally, Margaret Stopp took the podium and asked members to participate in the planning of the Centennial Park. Specifically, Rotarian

Margaret is seeking input regarding what features Rotarians think should be included at the park.

Following the announcements, Paul Young introduced our guest speaker – Matt Johnson. Mr. Johnson received his Bachelor of Science in Engineering and his Master's Degree in Computer Science. Prior to joining the Institute of Human and Machine Cognition, where he currently works as a researcher, Mr. Johnson was a Naval Officer flying both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. He visited our Club to discuss the IHMC's participation in the DARPA Robotics challenge.

DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency – is an agency of the Department of Defense responsible for the development of new technologies for use by the military. The DARPA Robotics Challenge is a robotics competition intended to promote the use of technology in disaster-response operations that pose grave risks to the health and wellbeing of humans. Basically, it is hoped that technology will one day progress to the point that disaster-response robots will be used in lieu of traditional human rescue workers.

The Robotics Challenge consists of three sequential events: (1) the virtual robotics challenge in which participating teams guide a simulated robot through various tasks in a virtual environment; (2) the trials during

which teams guide actual robots through physical tasks; and, (3) the finals during which the teams will again guide actual robots through a series a physical tasks, but for a chance to win a two million dollar prize. Only the first two events have been held.

The first event – the virtual robotics challenge – teams were required to create software capable of operating a robot that could perform various tasks, namely, walking, entering a vehicle, and driving a vehicle. Each software program was then tested in a computer simulated environment, no actual robots were used. IHMC won the virtual robotics challenge. As a result, IHMC received an Atlas Robot from Boston Dynamics for its use during the second event of the Robotics Challenge.

In the second event – the trials – the teams were required to use actual robots to perform various tasks. Those tasks included driving, walking, opening doors, using a drill, manipulating valves, and more. IHMC and its robot took second place at the trials. Preparations are currently underway for the third event in the hopes of winning the cash prize.

After his presentation, Mr. Johnson was presented with a piece of fine china. After thanking those that produced the day's program, President Stafford adjourned the meeting.

ROTARY WHEELS

- ❖ Hear that president David is to be the principal speaker on May 1st when the Bar Society celebrates Law Day.
- ❖ On April first, when he won TWO drawings, Nathan Kahn had as his guest the executive vice-president of the Blue Wahoos. Perhaps that's a sign the baseball leader may become a member.
- ❖ Don McMahon has joined the club's growing roster of men and women seen in TV ads.
- ❖ Maybe it's a sign that the Symphony's watching news...but whatever...Bart Barrow's orchestra will perform works by three Russian composers at their April concert.

2013-2014 Club Officers

◆ President	David Stafford
◆ Past President	Innes C. Richards
◆ President Elect	John Shaffer
◆ Secretary	Claudia Simmons
◆ Treasurer	Donn Scott
◆ Sergeant At Arms	Tim Kane
◆ Historian	John Appleyard

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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

Ted Kirchharr
www.rotary6940.org

Assistant District Governor

Robert W. Schuster

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of
April 8th through April 14th

- Handsel Butts** – April 8
born in Natchez, MS, in Rotary 49 years
- Chris Kelly** – April 8
born in Landstuhl, Germany, in Rotary 2 years
- Barry Cole** – April 8
born in Jackson, MS, in Rotary 4 years
- Mark Tuzo** – April 11
born in San Diego, CA, in Rotary 26 years
- Clif Payne** – April 12
born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 20 years
- Ed Wonders** – April 13
born in Newton, KS, in Rotary 10 years
- Henry Roberts** – April 14
born in Selma, AL, in Rotary 6 years

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

April

- 8 - Mobile Chamber of Commerce, Saxon/Scisson
15 - Florida Consumer Services, Alexander Warmka
22 - Arcadia Mill, Historic Site, Adrienne Sams
29 - Club Meeting

GREETERS AND TICKET SALES

April 8

Greeters: Gary Bemby and Judy Bense
Ticket Sales: Robert Benz and George Biggs

April 15

Greeters: Thomas Birdwell and Alexis Bolin
Ticket Sales: Alan Bookman and Shawn Brantley

The Rotary Club of Pensacola
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