

# the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

## WEEK IN REVIEW

Rotarians Roger MacDonald and Jeff Lewis greeted all Rotarians, visitors and guests with a smile and a warm, Rotary welcome on unseasonably warm September afternoon in beautiful downtown Pensacola. Raffle tickets were sold by Rotarians Ron Martin and Hill Turner.

President Shaffer called the meeting to order and asked the club to join him in reciting the Four Way Test. Rotarian Charlie Sherrill was then called upon to lead us in prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our great country. President Shaffer announced the passing of Rotarian Lamar Tuzo on September 7<sup>th</sup> with funeral services to be held at NAS Memorial Chapel on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Rotarian Innes Richards spoke about the upcoming Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) training which is set to be held at Pensacola State College on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. We also learned that RYLA is set for April 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. Please keep these dates in mind and be thinking of any 10th graders you may want to nominate to attend this valuable training.

President Shaffer then had our program speaker draw for the raffle which was worth a very respectable \$67 and was won by Alan Moore. Rotarian Scott Grissett was called to the podium to introduce our guests, visiting Rotarians and Rotarians celebrating birthdays. There were no military guests on this date so Rotarian Grissett provided the club with some Rotary Sunshine and led the club in a chorus of "Happy Birthday You 'All" to our Rotarians celebrating birthdays.

Rotarian Trey Manderson then introduced Rick O'Connor who is with the Escambia County Extension Service / IFAS - University of Florida "Sea Grant" Marine program. Mr. O'Connor earned his undergraduate degree, a B.S., Marine Biology, from Troy State University and his masters degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Science Education and Vertebrate Zoology. Mr. O'Connor's program was entitled, "Living with Lionfish." It was an informative presentation on an invasive species of fish that has found a home in the Gulf of Mexico and whose population is exploding in the absence of any natural predators.

We learned that there are nine different species of lionfish, but only two, the devil lionfish and the red lionfish, are known to have found their way into the gulf. The red lionfish comprises 98% of the total known population in the Gulf of Mexico. These fish with their venomous spines are native to the Indo-Pacific region, off the coast of western Australia. The species was somehow introduced into the Western Atlantic. The theory on how the lionfish most likely arrived in our waters is that a few of the very colorful fish were discarded from an aquarium into the Atlantic off the coast of South Florida. Genetic tests indicate that the lionfish found in the gulf waters near Pensacola are descended from those originally discarded and found off of Ft. Lauderdale. The lionfish then likely rode the Gulf Stream up the east coast, over to Bermuda and then into the Gulf of Mexico. Lionfish are always found near reefs and submerged structures and tend to dominate and takeover the areas from

other bottom fish. The lionfish arrived in the Pensacola area waters in 2010 according to Mr. O'Connor.

Lionfish reproduce by producing a floating sack filled with fertilized eggs which floats up to the surface before hatching. Other fish apparently are not attracted by the taste of these sacks and do not try to eat them. Lionfish that hatch over the open, sandy bottom areas of the gulf generally do not survive. Those that find a reef thrive as the adult fish have no known predators. The red lionfish are certainly thriving in our gulf waters. In their native habitat, they are found in numbers of 18 - 20 per acre while in the gulf they are found in numbers exceeding 40 per acre.

Scientists are trying to determine why the lionfish are thriving in such numbers in the Gulf of Mexico, but have few insights at this time. The lionfish reproduce at such a prolific rate, having fishing rodeos where divers bring them in for prize money has provided the only success in trying to keep these menacing fish in check. Other ideas have been to find ways to encourage restaurants to serve the lionfish as a seafood delicacy. However, that approach has not taken hold either.

After an informative program, Mr. O'Connor answered questions and was presented with a Downtown Rotary Coffee mug. After thanking all those who contributed to today's meeting, President Shaffer declared our meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Lewis

## 2014-2015 Club Officers

◆ President	John Shaffer
◆ Past President	David Stafford
◆ President Elect	Andrea Krieger
◆ Secretary	Claudia Simmons
◆ Treasurer	Donn Scott
◆ Sergeant At Arms	Tim Kane
◆ Historian	John Appleyard

## Bulletin Information

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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

Dave Rauch  
[www.rotary6940.org](http://www.rotary6940.org)

## Assistant District Governor

Robert W. Schuster

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of  
September 16th through September 22nd

**Tommy Smith** – September 16  
born in Fayetteville, NC, in Rotary 3 years

**Betty Gail Peters** – September 17  
born in Knoxville, TN, in Rotary 17 years

**William Dickerson** – September 19  
born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary 20 years

**Susan O'Connor** – September 21  
born in Quincy, IL, in Rotary 12 years

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

### September

16 - ECUA, Lois Benson  
23 - District Governor, Dave Rauch  
30 - Lakeview, Gary Bemby  
October  
7 - Navy League, Mark Harden  
14 - Mayoral Candidates

## GREETERS AND TICKET SALES

### September 16

Greeters: Morrix Marx and Brian Masterson  
Ticket Sales: Jerry Maygarden and Trip Maygarden

### September 23

Greeters: Bryan McCall and Glenn McDonald  
Ticket Sales: Rex McKinney and Norris McMahan

## PRAYER & PLEDGE/SUNSHINE

### September 16

Prayer/Pledge: Pete Doyle  
Sunshine: Hugh Hamilton

### September 23

Prayer/Pledge: Shawn Brantley  
Sunshine: Scott Grissett

The Rotary Club of Pensacola  
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