



The Spoke

Last Week: Tommy Strowd



Our speaker was **Tommy Strowd**, P.E., Assistant Executive Director of the **South Florida Water Management District**. He has more than 30 years experience in environmental and water resource engineering, gained in both the public and private sectors. Since joining the District in 1992, he has served as Operations Director, helped accelerate the design and construction of projects in the

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and contributed significantly to regional water resource planning and engineering.

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state, covering 16 counties from Orlando to the Florida Keys and serving a population of 7.9 million residents. It is the oldest and largest of the state's 5 water management districts.

Created in 1949, the agency is responsible for managing and protecting water resources of South Florida by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

Tommy described the history of the efforts to transform the Everglades for development, agriculture, and flood control and told us of the on-going efforts to undo some of the unintended environmental consequences of the transformation.

The Everglades once covered almost 11,000 square miles of South Florida. Just a century ago, water flowed down the Kissimmee River into Lake Okeechobee, then south through the vast Everglades to Florida Bay, the ultimate destination of uninterrupted sheetflow. Recognizing that a healthy ecosystem is vital to a healthy economy, a number of initiatives are under way to improve water quality, increase storage and reestablish more historic flows.

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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Andy Frech(rr) was the Rotary Regular President for the day. His quote for the day was, "There are three kinds of people; those who make things happen; those who watch things happen; and those who wondered what happened." **Bob Andreasen**(rr) presented the invocation; **Scott Gerrish** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Maurice Sullivan**(rr) read the Four-Way Test.



President **Bobbi Bird** announced this year's recipient of Herb Barnes, "Heart of Rotary" award was **Dave Langendorfer**(rr) This award is given annually to a Rotary Regular who exemplifies the ideals that Herb brought to Rotary. The photo shows Dave wrestling with a Noble Fir at the Christmas Tree Tent.

Buy a T-Shirt from this man



Jon McLeod has **bos2kw** T-Shirts for sale; \$20; all sizes except small. Jon has a long training ride scheduled for Sunday, April 6th. He would be grateful for any support for the Sunday ride.



Jim Dati led the Reluctant Rotary Choir in the singing of "Yellow Submarine".

Gary Price reported that he and **Don Thompson** are sponsoring an hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine party, Friday, April 25th at the Wonder Garden. Donations are \$50/person and 100% of the proceeds will go to the Wonder Garden, a non-profit organization. The garden is now being transformed into a botanical garden. Most of the animals are gone and the cages have been converted into butterfly garden and other attractions.

George Cohan, appearing seasonally nervous, discussed the upcoming Reverse Raffle which is only five weeks away. Each club member is responsible for buying or selling a minimum of three tickets. George noted that you do not have to be present to win. The grand prize is \$15,000. In addition to the drawing, there will be a DJ, a sit down dinner, and an open bar. A great value for \$100/ticket.

The Rotary Regular Program

The Rotary Regular program was started in September 2000. President **Diane Lepola** issued an invitation to the *“cadre of loyal visiting Rotarians who attend our meetings regularly and participate in club activities... As a recognition of your involvement and to encourage your continued participation we invite you to become a **Rotary Regular.**”*

The invitation included a list of benefits, membership fee of \$10, and a discount on the breakfast charge.

There were thirteen Charter Rotary Regulars inducted at the October 25, 2000 meeting; none of them are members today. There were 56 Regulars in February 2002.

Some former Rotary Regulars who “graduated” to become club members are: Hal Cooper, Martha Erickson, Jim Friedgen, Scott Gerrish, Sue Masters, and Dave Shellenbarger.



The first meeting conducted by the Regulars was February 19, 2002. Here's a photo of then club president **Bill Oehler** welcoming Regular President **Zack Zackon**.

Upcoming Events

FOLK “An Evening of Natural Wonders” Cocktail Party. Friday, April 4th, Everglades Wonder Garden. \$50/person. Contact Mark Generales for more details.

District Assembly, Saturday, April 5th, 8 am to noon, Port Charlotte. Anyone interested in local district grants or international grants should plan to attend. Contact Sandy Scoggins.

Wonder Garden. Friday, April 25th, beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres at the garden. \$50/person. Contact Gary Price or Don Thompson.

Relay for Life. Saturday, April 26th, 4 pm until Sunday, April 27th, 7 am.

District Conference. Thursday, May 1st thru Monday May 5th. Grand Bahama Island. Contact Jane Goble.

janegoble123@gmail.com

Reverse Raffle. Saturday, May 3rd. Remember you don't have to be present to win.



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Bonita Bay Club. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133 or its website www.bonitaspringsrotary.org. **The Spoke**, the Club's official newsletter, is published weekly throughout the year (except when the Club is in recess.) You can reach the Spoke through its email riverchip12-spoke@yahoo.com. **Scott Gerrish** issue editor.



The 50/50 Now
\$2,682

Last Week:
a Disappointed
Len Eckert
drew the 6♠
to win \$5.

Rotary Sings
God Bless America



God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night
With the light from above.

From the mountains
To the prairies
To the oceans, white with foam,
God bless America,
My home sweet home.
God bless America,
My home sweet home.



*It's A Birthday
Celebration!*

Steve Slachta Mar 29
Jason Dolle Mar 31

Upcoming Speakers

Today:

Ross Dickerman,
Executive Director, The
Terraces

Next Week:

Susan Schmitt
Camp Florida

The 4-Way Test
of things we think, say or do.

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL**
and **BETTER**
FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?

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This Morning's Invocation

Almighty God, as we pause in prayer at the outset of this meeting, help us to realize the significance of these brief moments as a preface to our time together.

We confess that our prayers are often perfunctory, our acknowledgement of your presence and power all too casual, and our impatience with quietude all too pervasive.

Although we represent various sectarian backgrounds, we unite in mutual awareness that in all of our human endeavors we need divine assistance and blessings. Use our private and corporate involvement and our Rotarian experience to bring truth, fairness, good will, and beneficence to our community, culture, and world.

Accept our gratitude for food and all other gifts lavished upon us. Amen.