

October 24, 2014



San-Captions

District 6960 Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club Organized 1979

* Chartered March 18, 1980

Board of Director Officers:

President: Bill Rahe
President Elect: Chris DeCosta
Vice President: Charlie Emerson
Secretary: Chet Sadler
Treasurer: John Danner
Sergeant-at-Arms: Don Russell

Board Directors:

Past President: Scot Congress
Bob Guggino-17
Holli Martin-17
John Mason
Bunny Ospa
Dick Waterhouse
Alex Werner

Trust Fund Board:

President, John Grey
Treasurer, Scot Congress
Secretary, Mike Raab
Rotary Foundation, Chet Sadler
Lee Almas-17
John Bellino
Jim Lavelle
Scott Congress pp

SPEAKER CORNER.org

TODAY - 7:30 a.m. - Special Polio SKYPE Event
followed by our speaker Ken Wilkinson, Lee County Appraiser
10/31 club assembly

Dan Cohn, October speaker coordinator

11/7 Iver Brook, WWII Experience on B-17 Bomber as Radio Operator

11/14 Harry Lee, Audubon Shells, International Shell Expert

11/21 Susan Scott, Enchanted Ballroom, Physical Benefits of Dancing

11/28 NO MEETING

Rachel Tritaik, November speaker coordinator

COME HELP PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF SANIBEL-CAPTIVA ROTARY

Planning mode starts at the top with our club Board of Directors and Trust Fund Board. At this time, the club is seeking nominations for the following positions – 2 Board of Director members and 2 Trust Fund Board members - term in office, three years.

Nominations must be in by NOV. 14TH.

CLUB ELECTION FOR 2015-16 DATE DEC. 19TH

Still time to make your travel arrangements to go to Guatemala in early November with John Grey, Chet Sadler, and Bill Rahe. They will be delivering wheelchairs and visiting the coffee farmers we are supporting through micro-financing in Guatemala.

NOW Seeking Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club

VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINEES

Rotarians: John Mason and Charlie Emerson are heading up our club's **Vocational Excellence Award Committee** and need your help. **Nominees must be non-Rotarians.**

This award is designed to recognize VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE of the highest order and to honor outstanding contributions by individuals or small teams of individuals for significant advancement in their vocational field.

SAVE THE DATE: HOLIDAY PARTY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH 6-10 PM
SANIBEL COMMUNITY HOUSE

DISTRICT #6960
GOV. 2014-2015
PETE DORAGH



CLUB SONG

Giver of all things good, We Thank you for this food,
With one accord
Lead us we humbly pray, Onward in Rotary's way
Of service day by day, Most Gracious Lord

Notes from last week:



Operation Open Arms...In the later part of the Viet Nam war and for a long time after, our American troops were often treated with disdain for serving in Viet Nam. Last week's Rotary's Guest Speaker, John "Giddy Up" Bunch, knows this all too well. John spoke of his own experience, the year was 1971, wearing his 1st/LT Marine uniform, he was walking through the Washington, D.C. airport where he was called names and spit on by Vietnam War protesters. Oh, he just didn't let that go, there was an altercation, but it left an indelible impression that made him promise to himself that "one-day he would figure out a way to treat American men and women who serve our country, better than he had been treated that day".

After serving in the Marines, John's career path took multiple directions, first working for IBM and when that ended touring with the PGA and more currently as one of the most successful and well-known fishing guides in Southwest, FL – Charter Fishing Captain, John "Giddy Up" Bunch. John is called "Giddy Up" for a reason but he never explained that, he just kept mentioning that he was living the life over on Fort Myers Beach, a bachelor with only himself to care about...and when he said that...there was a smile on his face. A selfish life, as he said.

Well, that selfish life was about to change in 2005. A chance encounter, at a Fort Myers Beach bar would see to that. SPC Travis Downes approached John with a simple question...he wanted to know where he could do some fishing from the beach or pier before he had to go back to Iraq. John thought for a while and then came his AHA moment, his Oprah moment. If Travis and his father could meet him in Pine Island, he would take them out on his boat to fish. Travis told him he couldn't afford to rent a fishing charter. John told, him no, the trip was on him. Bunch knew that this was the way he could keep that promise he made to himself a long time ago, to give back, if only in a small way, to the troops that serve our Country. 2005 was the beginning of Operation Open Arms. John called on many of his fishing guide friends, hotels, restaurant, wedding venues in the area for help with his long ago promise to himself, one-day he would figure out a way to treat American men and women who serve our country with dignity and respect for the sacrifices then have made to protect us. Operation Open Arms offers local businesses, associations, and individuals an opportunity to support our active duty troops. They are an all-volunteer 501(c)3 charity in Southwest Florida. Since its founding in 2005, OOA has provided nearly 3,000 troops and their families one-week paid vacations valued at \$3,500. It also has arranged over 100 weddings, each with a value of \$18,000. A more recent service extended to vets by Operation Open Arms is their dedication to the care and treatment of PTSD. With the help of mental health professionals in the area, OOA is providing some services to those returning vets with PTSD.

With many local and national accolades for OOA, it's sponsors, and personally for John "Giddy Up" Bunch, Operation Open Arms has been noted to be an amazingly successful non-profit. Still it needs your help to lighten the hearts and minds of our brave troops. Most all of the services are donated but there are always incidental expenses and boat captains are sometimes given gas money for charters. Donations are accepted on their web-site.

John did mention, that he understands the Rotary Motto "Service Above Self" and that is exactly what Operation Open Arms is about...this is a real service that makes a difference in the lives of our troops.

SANIBEL-CAPTIVA ROTARY PLATINUM SPONSOR FOR CROW'S TASTE OF THE ISLANDS

Sunday, November 9th, at the Dunes Golf & Tennis Club 11:00am to 4:00pm. The sponsorship money came from a share of the proceeds of San-Cap Rotary's *Summer in the Colorado Mountains* raffle conducted last spring. Sanibel-Rotary respects the work that is being done at CROW and realizes that their mission of saving wildlife through care, education, and collaboration is essential to our community. CROW's clinical research improves the medical and surgical care of wildlife not only at CROW but throughout the world. In addition, through their Visitor Education Center, community outreach programs and education programs help to further the fostering of positive relationships among humans, wildlife and their shared environment.

[CHECK OUT THE SANIBEL-CAPTIVA ROTARY ON-LINE STORE AT SANIBELROTARY.ORG](http://SANIBELROTARY.ORG)