

Rotary Club St. Simons Island Georgia, U.S.A

District 6920

Rotary Spray

February 5, 2008 **Today's Program:**

Wounded Warrior Project

Jeffrey Searcy Executive Vice President

Area Rotary Clubs		
Club	Meeting	Day & Time
Brunswick	Christie's Restaurant	Thu. 12:45 P.M.
Glynn County	Christie's Restaurant	Wed. 7:30 A.M.
Jekyll Island	Jekyll Island Club Hotel	Wed. 7:30 A.M.
St. Simons Island	Sea Palms (Confirm before attending)	Tue. 1:00 P.M.
SSI Marshes of Gly	nn Epworth—Jinks Dining Room	Thu. 7:30 A.M.

Managing Editor & Publisher

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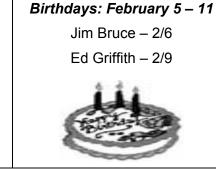
Data Reports Becky Stephenson

Visiting Rotarians Frank Pearson – Dickinson, ND Guests – Hosts Clark Drury (1st) – Wank Davis Leonard Mann – Bill Halderson Ed Griffith – Jim Bruce Emerson Chew – Hamsa Thota Attendance Jan. 29 – 60 members (64%)

Rotobucks

Leon Jorgensen - \$49

Greeters 2/5 Robert Cable, Chuck Cansler 2/12 Kent Capper, Fred Collins *Makeups* Ruth Heyward - Online



Support for Thailand Rotary Club

Eric Andreae reported on the use of a \$300 donation from our club to the Chiang Mai West Rotary Club in Thailand.

The Thailand club used the money to buy hundreds of chickens (and food for the poultry) for a school in Chiang Dao, a village in the high mountains of Thailand.

Through Eric, our club has established a relationship with the Chiang Mai West Rotary Club and is helping with that club's charitable activities. Eric encountered the club on a visit to Thailand in 2004. This is the third year our club has donated to the Thailand club.

Eric passed around photos of the school, which is in a poor area of Thailand.

Membership Report

Brooke Pridmore reports that – as of Jan. 30 – our club has 126 members (120 active and 6 honorary).

That is an increase of 3 members since July 1, 2007 (2 active and 1 honorary), or 2.44%, exceeding the District membership goal of a 1% increase.

Upcoming Programs

2/12 - SSI Rotary Student Speech Contest

2/19 - Classification Talks

January 29, 2008

Don Matthews Economist

Coastal Georgia Community College

Introducing the speaker, club member Don Fielder noted that economist Don Matthews spoke to our club last year and was rated the number one program of the year.

Dr. Matthews, who holds a Ph.D. from Georgia State, touched on these subjects:

- **Balance of trade**: He called these words the "most misunderstood phrase in all of economics." It's a misconception, he said, that a trade surplus is good and a trade deficit is bad. It is neither good nor bad, he said. When one economy is growing faster than others, the trade deficit expands, only to come down in a recession. He added that the United States attracts foreign investment because of worldwide trust in U.S. institutions, including a recognition that corruption here is much lower than elsewhere. This foreign capital investment in the U.S. naturally results in a trade deficit for this country, he added.
- **Declining dollar**: "The dollar is the world's currency," he said, and the fluctuating relative value of the dollar is simply the natural result of supply and demand. He said the United States continues to be a "magnet for capital investment."
- **Oil dependence**: He said it doesn't matter where the oil is located, because the highest bidder will get it. "It's irrelevant where it comes from." He also noted that although the housing sector is suffering economic problems, it is only a relatively small component of the overall U.S. economy. He added that it is "east to overstate the impact" of the housing problems.
- **The U.S. economy**: Overall, he said, our economy is "very strong," which makes him somewhat suspect of the need for the economic stimulus being discussed by the government. It is possible, he said, that the stimulus package could create more problems. The economist is upbeat about the U.S. economy, calling it "the most amazing economy in the history of the planet."



Rotary Officers & Directors

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St. Simons Island Rotary Club

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Directors

Club Relations & Public Relations Club Service & Membership Community Service International Service Programs & Fellowship Vocational Service Robert Cable

The Four-Way Test

of the things we think, say or do

- 1. Is it the *truth*?
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?
- 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- 4. Will it be *beneficial* to all concerned?

On-Line Makeup • www.rotarydistrict6920.net

Rotary Club of St. Simons • Founded in 1950 – www.ssirotary.org Meets Tuesday 1 P.M. - Sea Palms Golf & Tennis Resort Rotary Club of St. Simons • P.O. Box 21887 • St. Simons Island, GA 31522 www.rotarydistrict6920.net • www.rotary.org for Rotary International