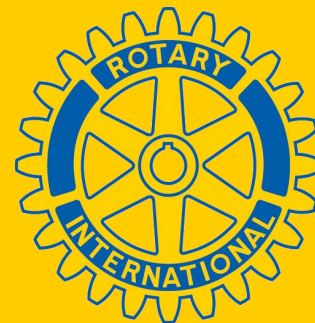


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## S.S. Mayaguez, Last Battle Of Vietnam

By John Short

Tom James introduced Ric Hunter who gave a firsthand eyewitness account of the S.S. Mayaguez, Last Battle of Vietnam. Ric, a retired Colonel, served 27 years as a combat veteran in the U.S. Air Force. He has over 4,000 flight hours in high performance aircraft, including the F-4 phantom and F-15C Eagle. He was an Eagle squadron commander and three time Top Gun.

Upon retiring Ric became a freelance writer/photographer for magazine feature articles in aviation, fishing and hunting magazines. After the attacks on 9-11-01 he returned to serve his country as a civil servant for eight years. He took over the world-wide program management of the Air Force's 50 million dollar fighter aircraft flight simulator program.

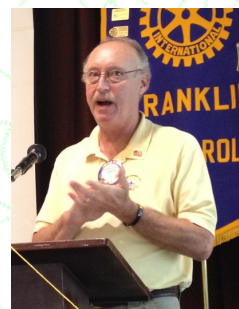
Ric recently completed his first book "Firehammer", a historical fiction novel based on a true story that puts the reader in the cockpit of an F-4 during the evacuation of Saigon and then the last battle of the Vietnam War and the rescue of the S.S. Mayaguez crew. Ric currently lives in Burnsville, N.C. His daughter is currently in the U.S. Air Force and is the third generation to serve their country.

Ric gave us an overview of the responsibilities of an F-4 fighter pilot and a look at the weaponry systems. A way of recognizing an F-4 is its rounded up wing tips. Every mission starts with a mission briefing followed by a walk around of the plane ensuring there are no visible problems. The plane was equipped with a Gatling gun, capable of firing 6,000 rounds per minute, and ground missiles. The pilot sat in the front seat and the weapons system officer in the back. Each had specific duties while in flight. The plane carried 15,000 pounds of fuel and upon take-off the two engines developed 16,000 pounds of thrust.

The Last Battle of Vietnam happened in the Gulf of Thailand just off the Cambodia coastline. The battle itself lasted four days in which 41 lives were lost. The mission was to rescue the crew of the S.S. Mayaguez which had been captured by the Vietnamese. The first day Ric and the other pilots were to fly over and gather information on the situation. The second day a fishing boat had been spotted and Ric was ordered to destroy it. As he approached the boat his weapons systems froze up and would not function, which ultimately saved American lives. As he passed over the boat he realized the American crew was on board the boat and the mission was aborted. The following day Ric's mission was to take out the Kymer Rouge which allowed all the marines to be rescued but three.

Ric said three things were accomplished following that battle: 1) the crew was rescued 2) no ships were taken after that point and 3) the U.S. regained world credibility. For more information on Ric and his latest novel go to [www.firehammernovel.com](http://www.firehammernovel.com) or email at [firehammernovel@aol.com](mailto:firehammernovel@aol.com)

On this Memorial Day weekend I would like to say thank-you to all the men and women who serve and have served in the armed services.



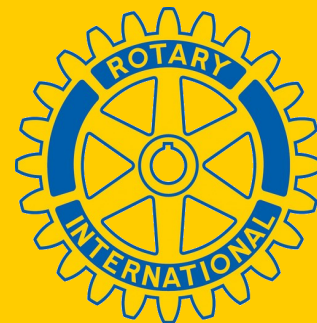




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## 2014 Academic Excellence Banquet

Franklin Rotary Club held its annual Academic Excellence Banquet on Tuesday evening to recognize Franklin High Schools top scholars and to Award the Bob and Helen Carpenter Nursing Scholarship and the Roy Rickman Scholarship finalists. The Keynote Address was given by Superintendent of Macon County Schools Dr. Chris Baldwin. Lenny Jordan chaired the Carpenter Nursing Scholarships of \$1000 that went to Edith Jennings and Katherine Sevigney. Bud Silers chaired the Roy Rickman Scholarship with each of the four runner-ups Christie Marie Barton, Katrina Marie Harris, Margaret Lynn McAllister and Jessie Rebecca-Lyn Palmer receiving \$1000 and the winner Haley Jordan Williams a \$12,000 scholarship that is dispersed at \$3000 per year.



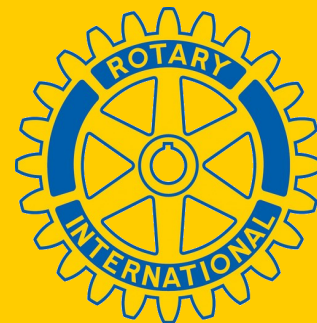




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## Greenway Clean-up

This past Saturday a few members of the club participated in the Greenway Clean-up in the area of the Centennial Park Rotary Pavilion. Thanks to all who attended!



## Leadership Training in Raleigh

This past Friday and Saturday a regional leadership training for our district Zone 33. The training dealt with foundation, public image and membership and it trained district level leaders on how to enhance public image in increasing membership and foundation contributions.

PN Sean Gibson, DGE

Gary

Bray, and

DGND Gary Dills attended from our club along with various other leaders from our district as well as other districts in the zone which stretches all the way to Delaware.



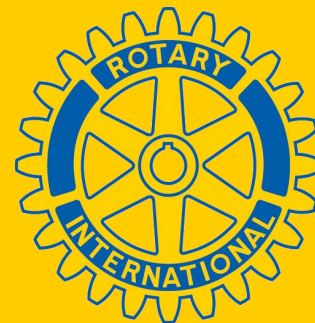




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## 2014—2015 Board Planning Retreat

On May 15th our incoming president Susie Ledford lead members of the 2014—2015 board in planning for the programs, events, activities and the proposed budget at Cat Creek

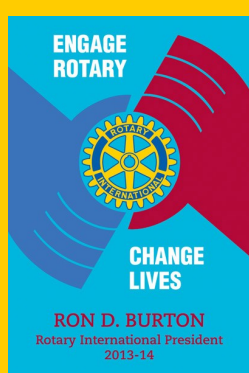


Lodge. The board also reviewed the on going 5-year Goals and Strategy Plan. After the planning session time

was allotted to unwind with cocktails and snacks.



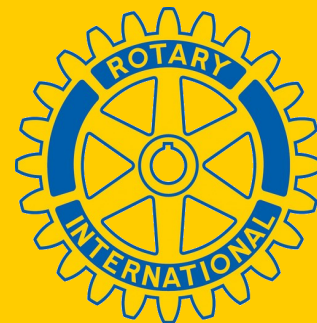




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## Its Rickman Time Again!!!

John Short, this year's Roy Rickman Scholarship Fund-raiser co-director, up-

dated the members on the upcoming fund raiser event requesting that each member participate in each of the three fund raising activities that help generate the monies to the scholarship fund. The July 26th event will be here before you know it so early planning is necessary.

**Ticket Sales** —each Rotarian was urged to sell and/or buy at least one ticket. If not comfortable in selling a ticket, please give a name of someone you think would be interested in supporting our scholarship fund by buying a ticket and the team leader will follow through on closing of the sale. Tickets distributed by team leaders at today's meeting. If you were not at the meeting, please see your team leader to get your tickets.

**Auction Item** —each Rotarian should be able to provide at least one item to the silent auction event and/or ask a retailer to donate an item that can be auctioned to raise additional dollars for scholarship fund. This year Susie has introduced custom cakes to be auctioned so members who have a spouse who makes a spectacular special cake have the ability to also add this to their list of possible auction items. Forms for auction items are in your ticket packet.

**Program Ad Sales** —each Rotarian was asked to buy an ad in the program or solicit an ad sale from a business that they use. See Sandy Frazier for copies of last year's program to use in making your sales pitch. Forms for sponsorship ads are in your ticket packet.

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**Roy Rickman Scholarship Fundraiser**  
**ROTARY CLUB OF FRANKLIN**  
 \$100 Donation Saturday July 26th, 2014  
 6:00 pm at Mountain View Intermediate School  
 ADMIT TWO Prime Rib Dinner and Silent Auction  
 Tickets Checked At Door No To-Go Meals  
 Proceeds To Benefit Local & International Rotary Projects  
**WIN YOUR CHOICE OF ONE OF THESE**  
**2014 CARS OR \$15,000 CASH!**

Dodge Dart SE  
Jim Brown Chrysler

Chevy Sonic LT  
Smoky Mtn Chevrolet

Ford Focus S  
Franklin Ford

## Upcoming Events

28 May..SMPCC

4 June..New Members Program

11 June..Exchange Student Sarah Dancy

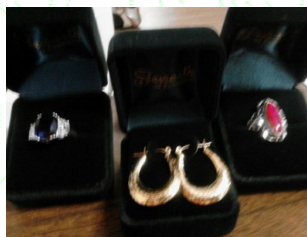
18 June..New Members Program

20—21 June.. District Conference

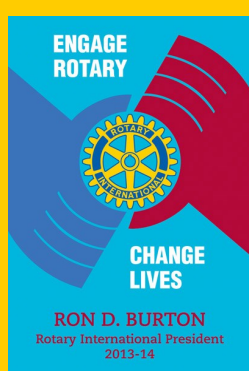
26 June.. Installation Banquet



## Silent Auction Items Coming In!



We are pleased to announce that the first few items for our upcoming silent auction have come in. We had great success last year and need to plan on topping it this year. See Patsy on the silent auction. We will also be in need of volunteers to help with the event. We encourage everyone to help because it takes "all hands on deck" to make it successful. Please see event co-directors John Short and John Yermack. The event is scheduled for Saturday July 26th at MVI.

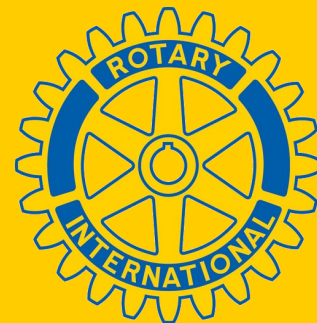


# THE FRANKLIN

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## Nancie's Notes



This past Tuesday's Academic Awards Banquet was a great event! Our Club honored the top 5% of the Franklin High School graduating seniors, as well as the recipients of the Roy Rickman Scholarships along with two SCC students who were awarded the Carpenter Nursing Scholarships.

The Scholarship awards event tells us it's time to begin our fund raising efforts for the Rickman Scholarships for next year. The horsemen began handing out tickets for Club members to sell this past Wednesday and will continue to do so over the next few meetings. If you did not receive your tickets, see your horseman at next Wednesday's meeting. In the meantime, contact those persons to whom you sold tickets last year and line them up to buy again this year. Remember, this is our only fund raising event of the year, so if everyone does his/her part, the Rickman Scholarship fund should do very well again this year. Also, remember the ad sales for the souvenir program. Contact the businesses you do business with and sell them an ad! If you're not a "sales person," ask Sandy Frazier or Amy Manshack to contact the business and they'll "close the deal" for you. Also, remember to bring something for the silent auction. The auction is a big part of the evening and brings in a significant amount of money towards the scholarships. Turn your silent auction items in to Patsy Parker. We'll be making a big push between now and July 26 to get those tickets sold, those silent auction items brought in, and the program ad sales closed!

## Sgt. Bill's "THIS DAY IN HISTORY"

from Club Sgt. At Arms Bill McGaha



1542 Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto dies on the banks of the Mississippi River.

1819 The first bicycles in the United States (known then as "velocipedes" and swift walkers) appear on the streets of New York City.

1832 The first Democratic Party national convention in Baltimore.

1881 Clara Barton founds the American Red Cross.

1927 Charles Lindbergh lands his *Spirit of St. Louis* in Paris, completing the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic.

1932 Amelia Earhart lands in Ireland to become the first woman to fly nonstop across the Atlantic.



## Clayton's Corner

### Laws Proving Stuff Happens 3

Murphy's Law of Lockers - If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Law of Physical Surfaces - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

Law of Public Speaking -- A CLOSED MOUTH GATHERS NO FEET!

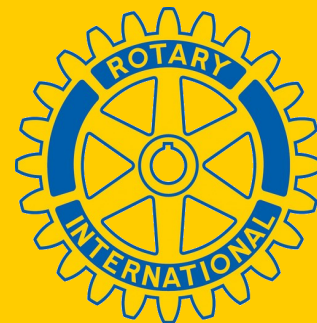




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### The Rotary Club of Franklin Officers and Board Members 2013-14

District Governor: Ronnie Thompson

Assistant District Governor: Jodie Cook

President: Nancie Wilson

President-elect: Susie Ledford

President-nominee: Sean Gibson

Secretary: Patsy Parker

Treasurer: Fairley Pollock

Vocational Service: Lenny Jordan

Community Service: Judy Chapman

Youth Service: Larry Hollifield

International Service: John Henning and Sandy Frazier

Foundations Chair: Jim Garner

Membership Chair: Linda Harbuck

Program Chair: Debbie Tallent

Public Relations Chair: Dick Pritts/Sean Gibson

Sgt. At Arms: Bill McGaha

Immediate Past President: Gary Dills

*Thanks for all you do in service!*



**Rotary Service  
for 5/28..**

**Pledge, Prayer, 4  
Way Test: Cardy White  
Greeter: Linda Harbuck**

**50 50 Drawing!**



Fred Drexler had the winning ticket but could not pull the winning card from the deck. The \$55 pot rolls over until next week with 10 cards left.

1 Ticket —\$1.00  
3 Tickets —\$2.00  
5 Tickets —\$3.00  
10 Tickets—\$5.00  
25 Tickets—\$10.00



**Next Regular Meeting 5/28 with Lenny Jordan  
as the host. See you at Tartan Hall at Noon.**