

## THE SPROCKET NEWSLETTER

Rotary Club of New Bern Breakfast Chartered May 9, 1985  
District #7720 – Club #22802 - P. O. Box 14625, New Bern, NC 28561 -  
[www.NewBernRotary.org](http://www.NewBernRotary.org) - Follow us on Facebook/NewBernBreakfastRotary

Now on Instagram at RotaryNewBernBreakfast  
Meets every Thursday morning from 7:30-8:30 and  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30

Governor: Brownie Futrell - 2025-26 Area 8 Assist.Dist.Gov.: Melonie Wray



### MORNING MEETING SUMMARY – June 4, 2026

Thanks to Michael Macey (Greeter), Nicole Williamson (Pledge), and Dick Peebles (Invocation). Special Thanks to Gretchen Derda, Chair of our Community Services Committee, who did a fine job leading the meeting this morning!

There was no Evening Meeting this week. The next meeting is June 11, 5:30-6:30 pm.

### Special Presentation:

Before the program began, member Brant Bills displayed a beautifully framed copy of the Rotary Code of Ethics that a friend recently presented to him. He is gifting it to our club and plans to ask the Ghent Event Center if we might be able to hang it somewhere in the room.



### Program:



Morris (Mo) Howland, owner of *Shop Class & Community Workshop* at 406 Guion Street, across from RCS, was our speaker this morning. Mo established this innovative business in 2016 in a vacant and dilapidated building, then put a lot of work into rehabbing it to create a very workable space in which he offers beginner and specific classes in woodworking, as well as rental space in this fully equipped workshop for DIY and woodworking hobbyists at just \$10 per hour. Shop Class is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 to 5:00 and on Sundays from 12:00 to 5:00. Before using any of the facility or equipment, however, people are required to take a 3-hour Safety Class for \$75. He has

tried to create an environment to encourage folks to learn and enjoy woodworking skills whether it is just the basics or fine and custom-built items.

Mo gave a slide presentation to show the work done on the building as well as introducing his class instructors in various areas of woodworking interests – Joe, Dale, Jim, Scotty, and Brian. Jonathan Burger, who recently spoke to our club, is also one of the instructors for beginning woodworking and welding. Jon's wife Rachel will be introducing a stained-glass workshop soon. Mo's wife, Polly, has become proficient in scroll saw work and is available if anyone has that interest. Volunteers round out the help that is available at Shop Class, including Ron, Bill, Don, and Eric. Ron and Brian generally concentrate on repairing old windows for some of the historic homes in the area. A photo of Mo's dog,



Gator, came with the explanation that he's in charge of security.

Shop Class works with the New Bern Historical Society to create wooden date boxes for historic homes, and the instructors and volunteers make a variety of wood items for Empty Bowls each year. One of their highlights each year is the Annual Belt Sander Drag Race fundraiser on the third Sunday of September. The \$5 admission charge goes to local high school art departments. The event includes a band, Brewery 99 is on hand with beverages, and there are "Cord Girls" who assist. Trophies are awarded in three categories; a 12-year-old won one of them last year. It's a fun and interesting event and everyone in our club was invited to attend on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Mo can be reached at 252-617-8980 or via their comprehensive and interesting website: [www.shopclass-nb.com](http://www.shopclass-nb.com).

### **Program Calendar:**

- June 11 – AM & PM mtg – Pacifique' Uwimbabazi – The Lived Experience in Rwanda
- June 18 – MicroProject - packaging candy for Juneteenth Parade (please bring donations to the 6/11 meetings, no chocolate or nuts!, so Gretchen knows if she needs to buy more)
- June 25 – AM & PM mtg – No regular meetings because it's our Annual Installation Dinner
- July 2 – AM mtg – No meeting – enjoy the July 4 holiday weekend!
- July 9 – AM mtg – Taylor Seijo, Sound Rivers  
PM mtg – Jasyn Griffith, Founder of Supporting Peace, a local nonprofit organization
- July 16 – AM mtg – John Barnes, New Bern Preservation Foundation
- July 23 – AM & PM mtg – Dave Super, Rotary video from 2026 President-Elect Training Seminar
- July 30 – AM mtg – To be announced

### **New Member Induction:**



We were very pleased to induct Rusty Cready as our newest member of the New Bern Breakfast Rotary Club this morning. Membership Committee member Paul Platek assisted Deedra Durocher in welcoming Rusty as our **20<sup>th</sup>** member this year! Since his daughter, Caroline, will serve as President of the Interact Club at Epiphany School of Global Studies next year, he said she had encouraged him to join, and he will bring a lot of enthusiasm to our club!

(Editor note on the photo – why is my mouth always open in every photo Barton or Ben take of me?! Do I really talk that much?)

### **Club announcements:**

- Committee Meetings – all members welcome to attend any of these meetings
  - Board of Directors meeting: Monday, June 8, 5:30-7:00 pm at Williams, Scarborough, & Gray, CPA
  - Community Service: Wednesday, June 10, 5:30-6:30 pm at HT Starbucks
  - Oktoberfest – Monday, June 15, 5:30-6:30 pm at Craven Literacy Council offices
- Annual Installation Dinner, Thursday, June 25, Chelsea Restaurant. You already know about this!

#### **Membership Chair, Deedra Durocher –**

- New Member Orientation on Wednesday, June 17, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at Craven Literacy Council offices, 2507 Neuse Blvd. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

#### **Community Service Chair, Gretchen Derda –**

- June 6, Saturday - Annual Shredding Event - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, 2015 Neuse Blvd., across from the hospital. Bring a chair, wear a hat, Water will be provided.
- June 20, Saturday – Juneteenth Parade – line up at 9:30 am for parade start at 11:00. Wear your Rotary shirt or hat!

#### **Oktoberfest Chair, Rodger Allison –**

- Counting on more member donations and sponsorship checks or commitments by June 15 meeting! Which team are you on? Joni's Jammers, Curt's Crusaders, or Deedra's Dreamers? The Dream Team brought in a \$1,500 sponsor check and a \$1,000 commitment this week! Rodger also said he'd like to avoid Ramona's

“Buts” when she returns after her epic trip around the country, so we need to get busy on sponsorships!!

### Michael Macey –

- Michael attended the Installation Dinner for our 2026-27 District Governor last week and induction of new Club Presidents for our District. He was pleased to see that 90% of those present/inducted were women, especially since women were only allowed to join Rotary in 1988!

### CART:

David Whitley must have been checking out those “dang-gone mice” for more information about Alzheimer’s because he wasn’t here to give us our latest preventive lesson. But Paul Platek explained to our visitors what the Blue Buckets were about and reminded members to leave their coins and cash!



### Health & Happiness:

Bette Morris recognized important dates this week in the lives of our Rotary members:

**Member Birthdays** – Sharon Carter-Moore (6/6), and Harris Huddle (6/10)

She also reminded everyone that tomorrow (6/5) is our day to prepare and serve lunch at RCS!

### Happy Dollars:



Paul Platek collected Happy Dollars this morning. Lunch money came to \$11 and the Queen is now up to \$120. Although he left the meeting early, Greg Postle left his tickets with Deedra and had the winning ticket (again!) drawn by our speaker. He will draw for the Queen first next week.

### Rotary Theme for June – Fellowship Month:

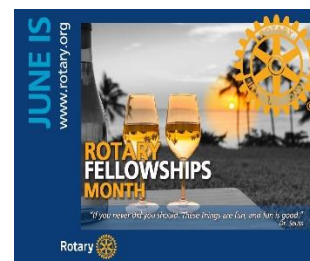
Rotary Fellowships are international groups whose members share a common interest. Being part of a fellowship is a way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience. Membership in a fellowship is open to any interested individual, even non-Rotarians (spouse or family members). New fellowships are added frequently; for the most recent list, see [rotary.org/fellowships](http://rotary.org/fellowships).

If your recreational or vocational interest isn't represented, contact

[rotaryfellowships@rotary.org](mailto:rotaryfellowships@rotary.org) to learn how to start a new group.

**Excerpted from the June issue of *Rotary* magazine – page 61 – with a list of current fellowship opportunities!**

**Such as: Beer, Bird Watching, Composting, Fishing, German Culture, Gin, Golf, Home Exchange, Jazz, Latin Culture, Military Veterans, Music, Photographers, Quilters & Fiber Artists, Skiing, Tea Lovers, Vegans, Wine, Yachting, and lots more!**



### News to Share:

Greg Collins, owner of Ghent Sandwich Shop & Event Center, has the casts off both his wrists that were broken during a motorcycle accident in April. He's feeling much better and still feeling very fortunate that this was his only injury.

I noticed in a May issue of *Sun Journal*, the front-page article on the Community Fabric Awards Luncheon, presented by Craven Community College, that one of the students sharing testimonials on the impact CCC has had on their lives was Katrina Brown, our Rotary club's 2025 nursing scholarship winner. Katrina gave a presentation last year at one of our evening meetings and shared that two of her children had received shoes at school years ago, but she didn't know where they came from. When she researched our Rotary club last year, she found the information on Kicks-4-Kids. She explained that this, plus her \$1,000 nursing scholarship, had a real impact on her family, and she was particularly grateful.



The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Journey of Hope Golf Tournament is going to be held on Saturday, June 27, at three golf clubs, simultaneously – The Emerald, River Bend, and Harbour Point – sponsored by the CarolinaEast Foundation. 100% of the proceeds will support local cancer patients, their families, and caregivers here in eastern North Carolina. See our member George Brake for more information.



**LET MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF Love**

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026 @ 3PM    SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026 @ 3PM

President-Elect Ann Super is also a member of the Craven Community Chorus and wants everyone to know – and attend if you can – the next program of music. The concert will be held at Orringer Auditorium on the Craven Community College Campus, and tickets can be purchased at the door on Saturday, June 13, or Sunday, June 14, or from her. They are a reasonable price at just \$10.

Members Dre' Nix, Sharon Bryant, and Tara Bailey have been working hard for months, with other leaders in our community, to present a full month of celebrations for Juneteenth in New Bern, including the Parade our club will be participating on Saturday, June 20. Go to the website: [www.jonb1865.org/events](http://www.jonb1865.org/events) for the full calendar details.

# JUNETEENTH of NEW BERN

## 2026 EVENT SCHEDULE

*Rooted in Resiliency & Unity • June 8–22, 2026*

**PROMO WEEK • June 8–11**

- Monday, June 8 – Podcast
- Tuesday, June 9 – Social Media – Facebook / Webpage: JONB1865.org
- Wednesday, June 10 – Radio
- Thursday, June 11 – TV News

**KICK-OFF WEEKEND • June 12–14**

- Friday, June 12 – NB Live
- Friday, June 12 – Artwalk Juneteenth Kick-off – Craven Arts Council & Gallery @ 5p – 8p
- Friday, June 12 – Flying Fox Patronage @ 4p - midnight
- Saturday, June 13 – Slave Quarters Tour @ 11a – 2p
- Saturday, June 13 – Miss Juneteenth ENC Pageant – Stanley A. White Rec Center @ 5p – 8p
- Saturday, June 13 – Brown Pelican Patronage – Band "Bridge to Breakdown" @ 7p – 2a
- Sunday, June 14 – Church Worship & Fellowship – Guildfield MB Church @ 11a – 1p

**COMMUNITY WEEK • June 16–18**

- Tuesday, June 16 – Jonkonnu Unity Project – Craven Terrace Comm. Bldg. @ 10a – 1p
- Tuesday, June 16 – Educational Day: Climbers Club Event @ 11a – 1p & 6p – 7:30p
- Tuesday, June 16 – Youth Community Health Day – Freedom Skate – Rollerland @ 4p – 6p
- Wednesday, June 17 – Jonkonnu Unity Project – Craven Terrace Comm. Bldg. @ 10a – 1p
- Wednesday, June 17 – HBCU D9 Day : Stanley White Gym @ 6p – 9p
- Thursday, June 18 – Jonkonnu Unity Project – Craven Terrace Comm. Bldg. @ 10a – 1p
- Thursday, June 18 – NB Southpaws Baseball Game: 50/50 Raffle & Dinner for Players @ 7p

**JUNETEENTH WEEKEND • June 19–22**

- Friday, June 19 – Havelock Juneteenth & Cultural Jamboree – Hvk City Park @ 3p
- Friday, June 19 – Day 1: Juneteenth Military Basketball Tourney – Stanley White Rec Center @ 5p – 9p
- Friday, June 19 – 7th Annual Premier Juneteenth Rooftop Celebration – 405 Middle Street @ 7p – 12a
- Saturday, June 20 – Juneteenth Parade @ 11a / Festival @ 12p – 4p / Fireworks @ 8:30p
- Saturday, June 20 – Day 2: Juneteenth Military Basketball Tournament @ 8a – 8p
- Saturday, June 20 – The FHC Scholarship Foundation All White Affair – NB Riverfront Convention Center @ 7p
- Sunday, June 21 – Day 3: Juneteenth Military Basketball Tournament Championships – Father's Day
- Monday, June 22 – MAAFA BBQ – Union Point Park @ 6p – 8p

**FOR DETAILS & UPDATES**  
 Visit **JONB1865.org**  
 Call **252-617-7544**