

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 - Follow us on Facebook/NewBernBreakfastRotary

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Meets every Thursday morning from 7:30-8:30 and
2nd & 4th Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30

Governor: Sophie Szymeczek 2026-27 - Area 8 Assist.Dist.Gov.: Melonie Wray



MORNING MEETING:

George Brake – Greeter, Bob Rigg – Pledge, Barry Lutz – Invocation
President-Elect Ben Monachino led the morning meeting

Today's Morning Program Speaker – Taylor Seijo, Water Quality Specialist with Sound Rivers

- Sound Rivers is a 50-year-old environmental nonprofit with a mission to monitor, educate, and advocate for keeping our watersheds, rivers, streams, and all waterways safe and clean.
- Staff of 9 members on the River Keepers Team in three offices – New Bern, Raleigh, and Washington, NC.
- 24% of our state is the 12,000 square miles of watershed area Sound Rivers is responsible for protecting.
- Neuse River is the longest in North Carolina and the widest in the United States. This watershed alone contains 6,000 square miles.
- Pollution sources regularly monitored include big industry run off, industrial animal facilities, algae blooms, sewer spills and unmonitored drainage, litter and microplastics, and sedimentation and habitat loss due to increased housing and professional land development. Sedimentation is currently the major pollution concern.
- Uses of the watershed, and particularly the Neuse River, are very diverse and include recreation, fishing, businesses, wildlife habitat, and more.
- Sound Rivers includes specific programs, beyond its regular duties, many of which involve volunteers.
 - The Water Watch Program - a community led monitoring program; approximately 112 volunteers are critical to monitor the waterways of 107 plus sites and serve as “eyes on the water”.
 - Swim Guide – staff and volunteers collect water samples to alert the public on any waterways that are not safe for swimming, fishing, etc.
 - Litter Free Rivers – specific traps are placed in narrow creeks and streams to collect trash as it travels toward rivers. In the watershed, there are 12 traps that have collected more than 17,000 pounds of trash in the last two years. The one trap in the creek beside Henderson Park (behind the Stanley White Center, collects an average of 250 pounds of trash each year.
 - The Tar-Pamlico River Water Trail - a recreational opportunity that includes cabins along the trail for camping for those using canoes, kayaks, or hiking along the waterway.
 - Campus Storm Water Program.
- The dashboard on their website – www.soundrivers.org – provides data collection information about the rivers, activities, volunteer opportunities, and lots of other helpful resources.
- How to Help? Volunteer (training provided for specific programs); share and educate about the Sound Rivers organization; become a member; donate. Grants and donations are critical to support the mission.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Board Meeting – July 20th at 5:30 pm at offices of Williams, Scarborough, & Gray, CPA on South Glenburnie
- Oktoberfest Report – Joni's Jammers currently ahead for new and/or increased sponsorships with Paul Platek's sponsorship from Carolina Colours. Rodger Allison, on Deedra's Dreamers team, contacted Neuse Landings Apartments, who had made an unsolicited \$1,000 sponsorship online.
 - We've reached \$30,700 in commitments from sponsors so far.
 - We still need more, and new, sponsors to reach our \$40,000 goal.
 - Ramona explained this year's tickets will be different. **Entry Only ticket** will be available at \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door. Active Military's discount allows for \$10 in advance, or \$15 at the door. Children (6-12) are \$10. This ticket provides folks a chance to enjoy the music, dancing, stein holding contest, buy pretzels, and of course, buy beer! **A Meal ticket for \$20/Children \$10 should be purchased in advance** (no discounts). A limited number of meal tickets will be available that evening, but it is important to purchase these before that evening. Both tickets will go on sale online, as of August 1st and Mitchell Hardware will have both Entry and Meal printed tickets available for purchase.
 - An "Angel Investor" has allowed the Oktoberfest Committee to contract with MARQ The Moment, a marketing services company, to expand our publicity and digital promotion for this year's event.
 - A volunteer is needed to be responsible for the Stein-Holding Contest. Please see Rodger or Ramona. Thanks to David Whitley for doing this so very well in years past!
 - A meeting to finalize ticket details at Ramona's house (1917 Spencer Avenue) this Saturday, July 11, at 10:00 am. Anyone wanting to participate is welcome.
 - Next full Oktoberfest Committee meeting on Monday, July 13, at 5:30 pm at Craven Literacy Council.
- Deedra Durocher and Barry Lutz briefly discussed membership counts for our club and District as of July 1st.



CART

- David Whitley reported on CART's tremendous impact by collecting coins and cash each week. In 2025, CART presented \$2M for 6 research grant proposals, and in 2026, it was \$4.5M for 10 grants of \$500,000 each to universities across the country for Alzheimer's research. Every penny collected in the blue buckets goes to support research.

HEALTH & HAPPINESS & HAPPY DOLLARS

- Bette Morris reported on Health and Happiness by sharing members' special dates.
 - Member birthdays – David Whitley on 7/10, Linda Postle on 7/8's
 - Partner birthdays – Liz Williams on 7/12, Judy Bills on 7/5, Daryl Mitchell (Suzanne Madison's husband) on 7/13, Patty Monachino – 7/10
 - Member Anniversaries – Bob Rigg on 7/1, 7 years with our club, +10 previously, total of 17 years
 - Wedding Anniversaries – Tom & Kay Gingrich, 7/15 (31 years), Tara & Chris Hughes, 7/7 (25 years)
- Rodger Allison collected Happy Dollars, Deedra Durocher had the winning ticket for \$10 of lunch money but drew the wrong red card so the Queen lives!



EVENING MEETING:

- Seven members attended and enjoyed updates from Carolyn Perrigo and Deedra Durocher about this morning's meeting presentation and announcements.
- As this year's Club Treasurer, Carolyn shared changes coming with billing for dues and payments that will now be handled through DACdb. Becky Malik offered to help Carolyn as needed.
- Celeste McAlister agreed to serve as the Evening Meeting Coordinator.
- Cinda Hill agreed to serve as the Evening Program Coordinator and will contact Ann Marie Devanney about working together on programs. Suggestion made to consider video taping morning speakers to share with the evening meetings.
- Dre' Nix will continue as the Intraclub Communications Coordinator and serve on the Board.
- Suzanne Madison, Rotaract Advisor, gave an update on Rotaract members who have graduated and/or moved but are still active. As of July 1st, new officers are needed so recruitment of new members is essential. Pacifique', who spoke to both meeting groups last month, has joined Rotaract, and there is an effort to work with the Community Raise Echoes nonprofit in Rwanda as a Rotaract project.
- Suggestion was made to offer an invitation to all club members, especially those not attending morning meetings, to come to evening meetings.

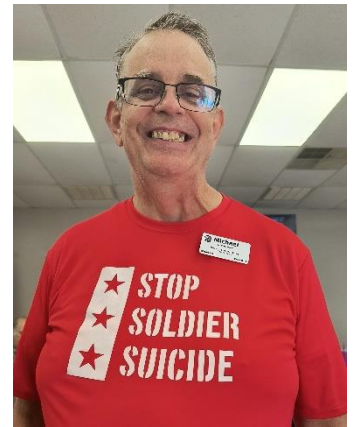
SPECIAL NOTICES:



- Allen Curtis was pleased to present his brother, Tom Curtis, with a PHF+4 on Thursday, June 25, at the Monck's Corner Rotary Club in South Carolina. Tom has been a club member there for over 20 years and in 2025 received the Rotarian of the Year award from his club.

- Michael Macy is participating in the **62 Mile Walk/Run Challenge for Stop Soldier Suicide fundraiser**, and invites members to join him with an appreciated donation to an important cause at this link on his Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/1736235650705466/10245556856362747/>



- On the first Friday of July, as usual, our great Breakfast Rotary Team, under the direction of Bette Morris, prepared and served lunch to appreciative diners at the RCS Community Kitchen. Ten members and family participated, and some were captured by Bob Rigg in a "selfie". (Bette, Mitch Khoury, Carmen Platek, Dick Peebles, Michael Macy, George Brake, and Bob).

