

# Rotary Club of Alamance

## Gold Club

Rotary International Presidential Citation  
100% Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member Club

[Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [For Prospective Members](#) | [News](#) | [Past Newsletters](#) | [Program Schedule](#) | [Projects](#) | [Online Resources](#) | [District 7690](#)

## Club News

### February 24th, 2015 Meeting

President Sang Ho Lee opened the meeting. Our newest member, Sam Holt, gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

### Guests and Visitors

- Philip Stewart, a guest of Ed Woodall, is the Alamance District Executive of the Old North State Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He is a prospective member. Welcome, Philip.

### General Announcements

- President Lee welcomed Sam Holt as our newest member. Lee needed a chair to see eye-to-eye with Sam, as seen in the photo. Welcome to the club, Sam!
- President Lee mentioned recent and upcoming birthdays and anniversaries, which are listed at the bottom of this page.
- The next three people with program responsibilities are Mark Laferriere, Sid Little, and Frank Longest. For a complete schedule, click on the **Programs Schedule** link on the menu on the left.
- Our club will sponsor a golf tournament hosted by the Alamance Country Club on Monday, April 20, with lunch at 11 am and a shotgun start at Noon. Cost will be \$500 per team. We hope to raise between \$3000 and \$4000 to enable us to adequately fund our adopted projects.
- The District Conference will be held in Roanoke, VA from April 30 to May 3. President Lee said that DG Patrick Eakes recruited him to demonstrate his martial arts skills during a planned talent show. Lee hopes to bring home a first prize for the club.
- Randy Perkins is in India to participate in Rotary World Immunization Day activities with his wife, Rita. God Speed, Randy.
- Peter Barcus, our new treasurer, gave a brief report of the club's finances. (Brad Moser was seen almost giving a standing "O" in appreciation for Peter's services, which Mr. Barcus said is the pinnacle of his Rotary career. He told us that our net balance after subtracting all liabilities is \$8844.14. Part of those liabilities include planned donations to various projects. Peter concluded by saying members will be seeing two increases in their quarterly statements - \$.49 per week to cover

a bump on prices from the Ramada Inn for meals and \$15 per quarter to add to our charity funds. No one objected.

- President Lee and Katie Dukeshire will be attending a Rotary Leadership Institute meeting on Thomasville.
- This is the 110th Anniversary of Rotary and the thirtieth year of Polio Plus. Since the beginning of the anti-polio initiative, over two billion children have been immunized and an estimated ten million



saved from the crippling disease. We are "this close" to completing the goal!

- Carolyn Rhode distributed contribution reminders to club members to help us fulfill our goal of giving at least \$100 to RI this year.

## Happy Clams

- Chief Smythe distributed flyers to each table and asked us to register to attend one of the upcoming Strategic Planning Initiatives sponsored by the BPD. Contact Iris Caballero if you are interested - 336.229.3546.
- Carolyn Rhode paid her dollar to publicly thank Micah Fox for risking life and limb to make a foray into the storage closet last week where he found all sorts of things Rotary.
- Francois Masuka expressed thanks that one of his international students was able to gain a one-year work visa after graduation.

## Ryan Keur: GM of the Burlington Royals and a "Young Gun" Rotarian

Ryan is one of our newest members. He has been with the Burlington Royal organization for four years and has served as GM for the last two. He is part of the new wave of younger professionals who have recently joined our club. He introduced today's speaker.



## David Laxton: Director of Communications for the [Autism](#)



## Society of North Carolina

David Laxton has worked for the Autism Society of North Carolina for over eighteen years, beginning in January 1995. Prior to coming to ASNC, he worked for Division TEACCH at the University of North Carolina for nearly five years, working with adults on the autism spectrum in vocational and residential settings. David is the past chair of the Chapter Services Committee of the Autism Society of America, Past Board President of Triangle United Soccer Association, and volunteer coach with South Durham Little League. He is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and the American Marketing Association. David graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. He lives in Durham with his wife and two children.

David thanked our club for giving him the opportunity to speak. He said the Autism Society of North Carolina is committed to providing support and promoting opportunities which enhance the lives of individuals within the autism spectrum and their families. The ASNC strives to create a community where people within the autism spectrum and their families receive respect, services, and support based on individual differences, needs, and preferences. It is a statewide organization which just celebrated its 45th anniversary. David has been a part for the last twenty of those years.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) refers to a group of developmental disabilities – including classic autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger's Syndrome – that affect a person's ability to understand what they see, hear, and otherwise sense. It is a brain disorder that impacts communication, social interaction, and behavior. Individuals with ASD typically have difficulty understanding verbal and nonverbal communication and learning appropriate ways of relating to other people, objects, and events. No two people with ASD are the same. As its name implies, ASD is a spectrum disorder that affects individuals differently and with varying degrees of severity. Additionally, ASD is often found in combination with other disabilities.

Although it was first identified in 1943, to this day no one knows exactly what causes ASD. However, research to discover its cause is ongoing. Many researchers believe that there is a strong genetic component. Some research suggests a physical problem that affects the parts of the brain that process language and information; other research points to an imbalance of brain chemicals. A variety of possible external or environmental triggers are also being studied. It is possible that ASD is caused by a combination of several factors. Recently, research data indicates that there is likely no definitive link between childhood immunizations and the disease.

People with ASD may have problems with social, behavioral, and communication skills. They might repeat behaviors and might not understand change in their daily activities. Many people with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things.

A person with ASD might:

- have severe language deficits or differences;
- talk about or show interest in a restricted range of topics;
- not point at objects to show interest (point at an airplane flying over);

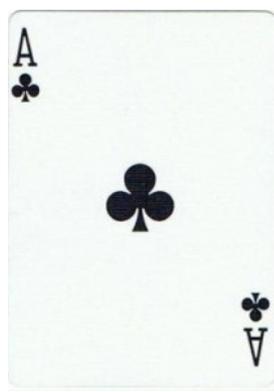
- not look at objects when another person points at them;
- have trouble relating to others or not have an interest in other people at all;
- avoid eye contact and want to be alone;
- have trouble understanding other people's feelings or talking about their own feelings;
- prefer not to be held or cuddled or might cuddle only when they want to;
- appear to be unaware when other people talk to them but respond to other sounds;
- repeat or echo words or phrases said to them, or repeat words or phrases in place of normal language (echolalia);
- have trouble expressing their needs using typical words or motions;
- laugh, cry, or show distress for no apparent reason;
- repeat actions over and over again;
- have trouble adapting when a routine changes;
- have unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel, or sound;
- be oversensitive or under-sensitive to pain; and
- lose skills they once had (for instance, stop saying words they were once using).

Autism is on the rise nationwide. Over the last nine years, we have seen nearly a tripling of diagnoses. Some of this is due to a broadening of the definition. Children are being diagnosed earlier, too, which is a good thing. Nationally, one out of every 68 children have autism, but in NC it is one out of every 58.

ASNC provides a number of services to help patients and families dealing with autism. These include summer camps, legislation and policy advocacy, training for first responders, training for families, and lifespan services covering children to adults. ASNC covers all 100 counties in NC and last year helped 18,000 families. Local support groups can be found in half the counties. The society depends on contributions made by staff and volunteers. It is an in-network provider with state health plans and works with HMOs to provide Medicare services. David said that ASNC partners with such organizations as the Burlington Royals to get the message out to the people of the state regarding what is available to help them make informed decisions based on reliable information. He asked us to remember to refer people to ASNC and to volunteer. He also encouraged us to take part in the upcoming 5K run to be held at the Royals stadium on August 29th.



After a short Q&A period, President Lee presented David with a plaque by which to remember his time with the club to express our appreciation for his sharing with us.



**Card Drawing**

Bonnie Whitaker represented her table today but failed to pull the winning card. We are now down to only 17 cards, and one of them is the elusive Ace. The pot continues to grow, being over \$700 now.

## Closing

As is our custom, we all stood to say aloud the Rotary Four Way Test, after which the meeting was adjourned by President Lee. Until we meet again...

# Club Related Dates

## District and Club Business

- **2nd Tuesday of Each Month** - For officers and committee chairs, 11 am until Noon.
- **March 31, 2015** - Club Assembly
- **April 30 - May 3, 2015** - District Conference in Roanoke, VA
- **June 30, 2015** - Installation of New Officers and Board

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Feb	Birthdays	Feb	Wedding Anniversaries
2	John Beshel	18	Dick and Bebe O'Donnell
14	Pete Beck	24	Lloyd and Ethel Ann Carter
22	Chuck Stedman		
26	Julian Griffin		
Mar	Birthdays	Mar	Wedding Anniversaries
12	Lane Jones	8	Francois and Andrea Masuka
17	Tripp Hilliard	27	Joseph and Susannah Williams
22	Mark Laferriere		

Want to see when you have program speaker responsibilities? Simply click on the Programs link below or the same link on the menu on the left above.

## Programs Schedule



Meets on Tuesdays from Noon until 1 PM at 40 West Grill in the Ramada Inn in Burlington, NC

Club 6090, District 7690 Piedmont NC  
Chartered March 31, 1981

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