



# THE QUACKER

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville

February 23, 2025

## Events

February 11th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 25th  
[Social Meeting and Book Donation Drive](#)

March 8th  
[The Reedy River Greenville: Comm Svc - TreesUpstate](#)

March 11th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

March 15th  
[St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival](#)

March 22nd  
[The Reedy River Greenville: Adopt-A-Road trash pickup](#)

## Years of Service

No Years of Service Found

## Birthdays

Valerie Cook  
February 11th  
Melissa Michael  
February 25th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Rami Elmarkiz-

## Didn't Get a Newsletter?

*The Quacker* is put together on the Sunday before the Tuesday meeting. If you do not receive an email with *The Quacker* by Monday morning, it's time to check Meg's pulse; something has happened. Like the last newsletter when she did all the work to pull the articles together and got the Pmail ready, and then forgot to click the "send" button so it sat on her computer through Tuesday evening when Club Members wondered if there was a newsletter. There was, but it was stuck on Meg's computer. Please speak up before Tuesday!

## 2nd Meeting of Month-February 25



This week we're headed to Grateful Brew for some fellowship and service. Bring books to donate to the Greenville Literacy Association. Come enjoy a beer on tap, food from a local food truck, and great conversation! Bring your gently used books to donate. Guests welcome, too, so be sure to invite them!

Grateful Brew is located at 501 S. Pleasantburg Dr. in Greenville. We'll see you there for some fun, fellowship, and food. After all, those are some of our very favorite things!

## Meeting Program/Speaker

*This schedule is subject to change. Please check each newsletter for the most current information.*  
2-25-25 - **Social Hour and Book Donation Drive** (2nd meeting of the month) - 6pm-8:30pm - Grateful Brew, 501 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC 29607  
3-11-25 - Regular Meeting - *Lake Jocassee Tours*, Tony and Cam McDade  
3-25-25 - TBD

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## This month is . . .

### Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution

According to Rotary International, over 70 million people are displaced a a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children.

Rotary refuses to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

### Rotary creates environments of peace

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peace building today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our [vision](#) of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peace building, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

### Rotary's Four Roles in Promoting Peace

- **Practitioners:** Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.
  - **Educators:** Our Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,800 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.
  - **Mediators:** Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.
  - **Advocates:** Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.
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## St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Greenville St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival is back on March 15, 2025, so let's get our green on and make the Greenville St. Patrick's Day Parade an event for Shades, Quacky, and Club Members who would like to join. We're working on some green, plaid, and other St. Patrick's Day regalia. If you have some, throw it on and come join us. Sign up on [DACdb](#). The parade starts lining up at 9am and processes at 10am from Main Street and Augusta Street.

Additionally, we will have a booth at the festival at NOMA Square from 11am to 5pm staffed by Rotarians and Duck Adoption Teams.



## Next Moves: Sponsorships



If you know Rami Michael, you know he is a Rotarian that likes to meet people and start conversations - often about Rotary. And Paul, his son, is a great ambassador for Rotary, so as they walked around the Greenville Convention Center passing out our QR code cards, Rami was able to secure a sponsorship. Folks, if you don't reach out, you yield nothing. If you give it a shot - no matter how hard that is to do - you increase your chances of success.

Be certain to grab a handful of the Club's QR code cards to pass out to everyone you come in contact with for more duck adoptions.

And how about our newest Duck Adoption Team, Rollin' Tigers Wheelchair Basketball Team from Roger C. Peace Rehab Hospital? We are so happy to have them on board with our duck adoptions.

As soon as the adoption papers and posters arrive, we would love every Club Member to help get these items out in our communities.

Sponsorships, including new and repeating sponsors, continue to come in, and you are encouraged to move any work you have started for potential cash sponsorships to completion. The other parts of sponsorship are the in-kind (such as Hepaco providing and installing the booms that hold the ducks at the starting line and catches them at the finish line) and prizes like a 4-pack of tickets and some swag from the Swamp Rabbits hockey team or Publix's donation of 52 \$100 gift cards that is our First Prize for the race winner. The prizes given in past years have been wonderful, and we are especially appreciative of the gift card type of prize sponsorships. What businesses do you have relationships with that might be willing to donate a gift card to their establishment?

Any questions about sponsorship should be directed to Ann Golden. For prizes, contact Laurie Rappl.

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## Newsletter Editor Needed

In Rotary year 2025-2026 that begins July 1, 2025, we are seeking a newsletter editor to put together *The Quacker* before each meeting, or two times per month. Training is available using DACdb's bulletin creation feature, and this is a great way to serve the Club. Let Rami Michael, President-Elect, know if you are interested in this important communication piece for the Club.

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## Shades Celebrates Stomper's Birthday



We hardly recognized Stomper after his recent tummy tuck, but there he was, ready to celebrate his birthday with the help of all of his mascot friends, including Shades. Hats off to Gary Farrar, former Club Member, who suited up and sweated through the broom-ball activity on the ice as well as greeting patrons on the concourse before and during the game.

Thanks also to Sandy Wright and family and Meg Coffey for coming out and supporting the Swamp Rabbits and Stomper at the birthday party. The Swamp Rabbits came away with the win against the Wheeling Nailers. Way to go Swamp Rabbits!

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## Home & Garden Show a Success!

What a show it was! Thanks to our Club Members who staffed our booth at the Southern Home & Garden Show:

- Elizabeth Clarke (2 shifts)
- Prudence Taylor (load-in, numerous shifts, load-out)
- Eric Krichbaum
- Rami, Melissa and the Michael children
- Paul Michael, Rotarian-in-Training
- Marc Bacon
- Ann Golden
- Sandy Wright

- Valerie Cook
- Melissa and Brian Miller
- Garrett Miller, Rotarian-in-Training
- Bhuvnesh Sharma
- Alan Calloway (load-in, a shift, load-out)

And our outstanding Duck Adoption Teams (DATs):

- STRIDES Tutoring (2 shifts)
- Augustine Literacy Project
- Mauldin Miracle League
- Harmony Rainbow Girls (2 shifts)
- Rollin' Tigers Wheelchair Basketball Team

We're grateful to all the Club volunteers and the DATs that came out to send our duck adoptions soaring. Busy, busy, busy is all we can say about our DATs and Rotarians who served. It certainly made the time go by quickly,

## Rotary & Friends Day Trip to Warm Springs, GA



The Rotary Clubs of Anderson and Pleasantburg have partnered to provide an excellent trip to FDR's southern White House in Warm Springs, Georgia.

A day trip, led by Rotarian Kathryn Smith (author of *The Gatekeeper: Missy LeHand, FDR, and the Untold Story of the Partnership That Defined a Presidency*), to the Little White House in Warm Springs, Georgia, can be yours.

This is where President Roosevelt began recovering from polio and where he died on April 12, 1945. They need to fill up a bus with 50 people to make the trip happen. Please share with all Rotarians and history buffs so the trip will have enough people to succeed.

The event takes place on Saturday, April 26, 2025. It involves a one-day luxury bus trip to Warm Spring, Georgia, where FDR launched his fight for personal recovery from polio and the effort to find a vaccine. Your guide is none other than Missy LeHand (a/k/a Rotarian Kathryn Smith), FDR's private secretary and partner in the international fight against polio.

- Depart from Anderson's Liberty Highway Walmart at 6:30am
- Arrive Warm Springs for buffet lunch at the famous Bulloch House
- Little White House and Museum tour
- Historic pools where FDR "swam his way back to health"
- Polio Wall of Fame at Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute
- Dowdell's Knob, FDR's favorite picnic spot (time permitting)
- Drinks and snacks on the bus as we return, arriving at 8pm

Cost: \$110 per person

Deadline: March 30, 2025

Please pay by check to Rotary Club of Greater Anderson and mail with [completed form](#) to:

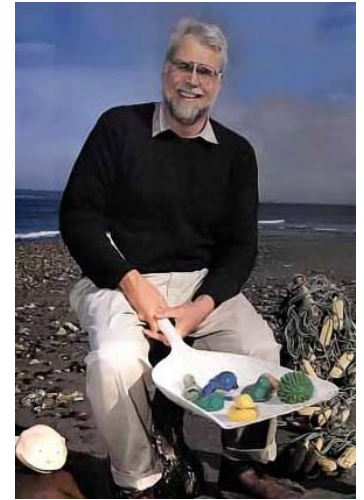
Kathryn Smith  
400 Heyward Road  
Anderson, SC 29621

Your check will be held until they are certain to fill 50 seats. Full refund up until March 30. No refunds after March 30. If you have questions, please reach out to [Kathrynsmith16@yahoo.com](mailto:Kathrynsmith16@yahoo.com) or 864-202-7093.

## Lost Ducks Around the World?

*Copied from Wikipedia. First picture of Curtis Ebbesmeyer and the items he was tracking. Second picture is one a friend sent that got me started on this rabbit hole.*

**Friendly Floatees** are plastic bath toys (including [rubber ducks](#)) marketed by [The First Years](#) and made famous by the work of [Curtis Ebbesmeyer](#), an oceanographer who models [ocean currents](#) on the basis of [flotsam](#) movements. Ebbesmeyer studied the movements of a consignment of 28,800 Friendly Floatees—yellow ducks, red beavers, blue turtles, and green frogs—that were washed into the Pacific Ocean in 1992. Some of the toys landed along Pacific Ocean shores, such as Hawaii. Others traveled over 27,000 kilometres (17,000 mi), floating over the site where the [Titanic](#) sank, and spent years frozen in Arctic ice before reaching the U.S. [Eastern Seaboard](#) as well as British and Irish shores, fifteen years later, in 2007. <sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup>



## Oceanography

A consignment of Friendly Floatee toys, manufactured in China for The First Years Inc., departed from [Hong Kong](#) on a [container ship](#), the [Evergreen Ever Laurel](#),<sup>[1]</sup> destined for [Tacoma, Washington](#). On 10 January 1992, during a storm in the North Pacific Ocean close to the [International Date Line](#), twelve 40-foot (12-m) [intermodal containers](#) were washed overboard. One of these containers held 28,800 Floatees,<sup>[2][3]</sup> a child's bath toy which came in a number of forms: red [beavers](#), green [frogs](#), blue [turtles](#) and yellow [ducks](#). At some point, the container opened (possibly because it collided with other containers or the ship itself) and the Floatees were released. Although each toy was mounted in a cardboard housing attached to a backing card, subsequent tests showed that the cardboard quickly degraded in sea water allowing the Floatees to escape. Unlike many bath toys, Friendly Floatees have no holes in them so they do not take on water.

Seattle oceanographers Curtis Ebbesmeyer and James Ingraham, who were working on an ocean surface current model, began to track their progress. The mass release of 28,800 objects into the ocean at one time offered significant advantages over the standard method of releasing 500–1000 [drift bottles](#). The recovery rate of objects from the Pacific Ocean is typically around 2%, so rather than the 10 to 20 recoveries typically seen with a drift bottle release, the two scientists expected numbers closer to 600. They were already tracking various other spills of flotsam, including [61,000 Nike running shoes that had been lost overboard in 1990](#).

Ten months after the incident, the first Floatees began to wash up along the [Alaskan](#) coast. The first discovery consisted of ten toys found by a [beachcomber](#) near [Sitka, Alaska](#) on 16 November 1992, about 3,200 kilometres (2,000 mi) from their starting point. Ebbesmeyer and Ingraham contacted beachcombers, coastal workers, and local residents to locate hundreds of the beached Floatees over a 850 kilometres (530 mi) shoreline. Another beachcomber discovered twenty of the toys on 28 November 1992, and in total 400 were found along the eastern coast of the [Gulf of Alaska](#) in the period up to August 1993. This represented a 1.4% recovery rate. The landfalls were logged in Ingraham's computer model OSCUR (Ocean Surface Currents Simulation), which uses measurements of air pressure from 1967 onwards to calculate the direction of and speed of wind across the oceans, and the consequent surface currents. Ingraham's model was built to help fisheries but it is also used to predict flotsam movements or the likely locations of those lost at sea.

Using the models they had developed, the oceanographers correctly predicted further landfalls of the toys in [Washington state](#) in 1996 and theorized that many of the remaining Floatees would have traveled to [Alaska](#), westward to Japan, back to Alaska, and then drifted northwards through the [Bering Strait](#) and become trapped in the [Arctic](#) pack ice. Moving slowly with the ice across the

Pole, they predicted it would take five or six years for the toys to reach the North Atlantic where the ice would thaw and release them. Between July and December 2003, The First Years Inc. offered a \$100 US [savings bond](#) reward to anybody who recovered a Floatee in [New England](#), Canada or Iceland.

More of the toys were recovered in 2004 than in any of the preceding three years. However, still, more of these toys were predicted to have headed eastward past Greenland and make landfall on the southwestern shores of the United Kingdom in 2007. In July 2007, a retired teacher found a plastic duck on the Devon coast, and British newspapers mistakenly announced that the Floatees had begun to arrive.<sup>[4]</sup> But the day after breaking the story, the [Western Morning News](#), the local Devon newspaper, reported that Dr. Simon Boxall of the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton had examined the toy and determined that the duck was not in fact a Floatee.<sup>[5]</sup>

Bleached by sun and seawater, the ducks and beavers had faded to white, but the turtles and frogs had kept their original colors.



## Legacy

At least two children's books have been inspired by the Floatees. In 1997, [Clarion Books](#) published *Ducky* (ISBN 0-395-75185-3), written by [Eve Bunting](#) and illustrated by [Caldecott Medal](#) winner [David Wisniewski](#). [Hans Christian Andersen Award](#) winner [Eric Carle](#) wrote *10 Little Rubber Ducks* (Harper Collins 2005, ISBN 978-0-00-720242-3).<sup>[6]</sup>

In 1997 [Black Swan](#) published *That Awkward Age* (Transworld 1997, ISBN 978-0552996716), a comedy written by [Mary Selby](#), in which several of the ducks are found off the Isle of Lewis, one then being purchased at auction and treated as a metaphor for perseverance.

In 2003, Rich Eilbert wrote a song "Yellow Rubber Ducks" commemorating the ducks' journey. In 2011, he published the song as a YouTube video, [Yellow Rubber Ducks](#).

In 2011, [Donovan Hohn](#) published *Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them* (Viking, ISBN 978-0-670-02219-9)<sup>[7]</sup>

On the 19th of February 2013, [BBC](#) mystery series [Death in Paradise](#) featured the spill as a plot point in the 7th episode of Series 2.<sup>[8]</sup>

On 20 June 2014, [The Disney Channel](#) and [Disney Junior](#) aired *Lucky Duck*, a Canadian-American animated TV movie that is loosely based on and inspired by the Friendly Floatees.<sup>[9]</sup>

In his 2014 poem collection *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion*, poet [Kei Miller](#) dedicates a poem to the Friendly Floatees: "When Considering the Long, Long Journey of 28,000 Rubber Ducks".

The spill was referenced in a 2022 game "Placid Plastic Duck Simulator" as an "accidental duck experiment", which can be heard on the radio in between music.

The toys themselves have become collector's items, fetching prices as high as \$1,000.

## Service/Rotary Opportunities



Take advantage of these service, learning, or meet-up opportunities coming up. More information and the opportunity to sign up are available on [DACdb](#).

**2-25-25 - Social Hour and Book Donation Drive** (2nd meeting of the month) - 6pm-8:30pm  
- Grateful Brew, 501 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC 29607

Come enjoy a beer on tap, food from a local food truck, and great conversation! Bring your gently used books to donate to the Greenville Literacy Association. Guests welcome, too!

**3-8-25 - Trees Upstate** - 8:30am-Noon - *LOCATION CHANGE* - 305 S. Suber Road, Greer, SC  
The project will plant trees at a soccer complex. The planting demonstration starts at 9am, so please be prompt to get through on-site sign in. Friends and family are welcome! This is a direct result of our Duck Derby funds and a matching grant from The Nature Conservancy.

**All participants must also register on the TreesUpstate website using this link** (<https://treesupstate.org/volunteer/>) prior to the event. Look for the "Sat. 3/8 9 am Tree Planting @ Powdersville" label. Detailed instructions regarding the event will be provided by TreesUpstate to registered volunteers.

**3-15-25 - Greenville St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival** - 9am line-up for parade; festival at NOMA Square afterwards

Join Club Members as they accompany Shades and Quacky down Main Street to the festival at NOMA Square. Wear your most festive St. Paddy's Day gear (some available for use as well). Sign up on [DACdb](#) for this event.

**3-29-25 - ReCraft Creative Reuse Center** - 10:30am-1:30pm - 2439 Laurens Road, Greenville, SC 29607

Help organize craft supplies and donations at the ReCraft Store. They're helping keep hobbies alive and keeping items out of the landfills! You can come for all or just part of the time. Sign up on



DACdb.

**4-5-25 - Shed Party #1** - 9am-Noon - 1868 Woodruff Road, Greenville, SC  
Come to the Club's storage shed at The Space Shop storage facility, H6, 1868 Woodruff Road, Greenville, SC. Read entry instructions for code 1052. Club members will inventory and organize souvenirs and sales booth gear in preparation for Derby Day.

**4-19-25 - Shed Party #2** - 9am-Noon - 1868 Woodruff Road, Greenville, SC  
Final organizing at the Club's storage shed at The Space Shop storage facility, H6, 1868 Woodruff Road, Greenville, SC. Read entry instructions for code 1052.

**4-23-25 - VID Party** - 4:30-8:00pm - Embassy Suites - 670 Verdae Blvd. Greenville, SC  
All Club Members are needed at the Very Important Duck party to celebrate our sponsors. Come help set up, chat up, and support our efforts for the Reedy River Duck Derby.

Remember to register for the above opportunities at DACdb and follow instructions within each volunteer opportunity that may require a second sign-up on the organizing group's website.

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## Library Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer at the Greenville County Public Library

The Library offers several different opportunities to volunteer. Prudence Taylor volunteers at the Friends Shop at the Hughes Library, headquarters for the library system. The shop is open Wednesday - Friday, 10 am - 3 pm. The store sells used books and some retail items, including greeting cards, puzzles, etc. All funds raised go to support programs for children, teens, and adults. The Library also holds book sales at its Five Forks Branch Library. All funds raised from the book sales go to support the library system's programs for children, teens, and adults.

Other ways to volunteer include:

- Assisting children's librarians with preparation for various programs for youngsters.
- Sorting books for book sales.
- Processing new items to be shelved for the first time.
- Looking over the shelves to make sure all items are in proper order.
- Shelving books.
- Serving in some capacity at special events, including keeping track of door counts or assisting attendees at a table.
- Helping patrons who are using public computers.

You do not have to be a member of the Friends of the Library to volunteer. The volunteer coordinator is Amy Pecht. Contact her at [volunteer@greenvillelibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@greenvillelibrary.org) or call 864-527-9286. A volunteer application is available online <https://www.greenvillelibrary.org/volunteer>. Be sure to let Elizabeth Clarke know if you volunteer and how many hours you contribute to an event/organization so the Club can keep track of our service.

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## Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities



**Feed & Seed - 701 Easley Bridge Road, Suite 6010, Greenville, SC** - The fresh food box programs provide individuals facing food insecurity with a healthy variety of fresh produce, including items sourced from local farmers. Feed & Sees relies on the generous support of volunteers to help us pack boxes in a warehouse which will be delivered to sites in Pickens, Oconee and Abbeville counties.

What to expect on packing day: Arrive at Feed & Seed prior to 10:00am so that you have time to sign in, wash your hands, and put on hairnets and gloves. We will circle up to discuss our Fresh Food Box programs and go over food safety guidelines. We are a GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) facility and do require all volunteers to comply with the following expectations:

- Closed-toed shoes required.
- No shorts or dresses.
- Hairnets are required. PPE will be provided.
- Beard Nets are required for the bearded folk. PPE will be provided.
- Gloves are required. PPE will be provided. Hand-washing will be required prior to putting on gloves.
- No Jewelry Allowed. (exception plain, solid bands).
- No Food or Drinks in the warehouse area.
- No Personal Bags in the warehouse area.

Work takes place until about 1:30pm. New volunteers must complete a waiver prior to their first volunteer experience! Click [here](#) for Feed & Seed website for more information and sign waiver.

**Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

**Meals on Wheels** - Deliver hope, friendship, independence and more. When you get involved with Meals on Wheels, you are delivering so much more than daily nourishment. You deliver friendship to those who spend their days alone. You deliver independence, allowing people to age in their homes with dignity. You deliver hope to those often forgotten. Volunteer your time, refer someone who needs help, or make a donation. No matter how you get involved, you'll deliver more than meals. [Volunteer Application | Meals On Wheels Greenville](#). Prudence Taylor regularly volunteers with Meals on Wheels and would be a source of information if you have questions.

**Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

**The Children's Museum of the Upstate - [Volunteer - TCMU Upstate \(tcmupstate.org\)](#). Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

**Trees Upstate** - is a nonprofit organization founded in 2005. Their mission is to **plant**, **promote**, and **protect** trees in the Upstate. They **plant** trees in parks, schools, and neighborhoods, **promote** the benefits of trees, and **protect** by providing education and technical support to help inform policies and systems change. Though they are dormant in the summer months, they will have volunteer opportunities at this link: [Volunteer - Trees Upstate](#). **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

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## Contribute to The Quacker

*The Quacker* is produced using DACdb on a **computer** and texted information takes additional manipulation from phone to computer. If your phone takes high-resolution pictures (HEIC), they are not compatible with DACdb and, therefore, an additional step to convert those files to JPEG, JPG, or PNG has to take place. If you use EzStory in DACdb, please send an email stating the name of your article. If you are unable to use EzStory, submit something for *The Quacker* by **emailing** the copy and pictures in the above format to [megcoffey@yahoo.com](mailto:megcoffey@yahoo.com). Newsletters are put together on Sunday afternoon prior to the Tuesday meeting.

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## Club Mailing Address

Please use this address for all club correspondence, remitting dues (unless you pay online), and Duck Derby business.

Rotary Club of Reedy River Greenville  
Box # 500  
325 Rocky Slope Rd, Suite 104  
Greenville, SC 29607

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## Club Meeting

The Reedy River Greenville  
Meets at Holly Tree Country Club (2nd & 4th Tuesdays Only)  
500 Golf Club Dr. Holly Tree Country Club  
Simpsonville, SC 29681  
Time: Tuesday at 06:30 PM

## Club Leaders

[Rachel Rutkowski](#)  
President

[Prudence Ann Taylor](#)  
Secretary

[Alan Stewart Calloway](#)  
Club Director  
iPast President  
Membership Chair

[Robert L Brown Jr.](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair

[Rami Elmarkiz-Sami Michael](#)  
President-Elect

[Laurie M. Rapp](#)  
Treasurer

[Meghan A. Coffey](#)  
Club Director  
RYLA Chair  
Bulletin Editor

[Elizabeth Foster Clarke](#)  
President-Nominee

[Mark William Bacon](#)  
Charities Committee Chair

[Ann H. Golden](#)  
Program Chair  
Club Director