

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Disaster 2
- Spotlight 3
- Belk special 3
- Red Cross Racing 3
- New Web site 3
- Red Hot Turkey Bash 4
- Calendar 4

## Golf tournament goes above par

The American Red Cross Annual Charity Golf Tournament raked in more than \$20,000 for the Greater Carolinas Chapter!

A big thank you to the nearly 100 golfers who enjoyed a clear-skied morning and afternoon.

Highlighting the afternoon was an exciting \$5,000 putt contest, won by golfer Richard Bates, who also came within just a few feet of winning the million-dollar shot!

Staff members and more than 40 volunteers pitched in to ensure a smooth outing. Many thanks to co-chairmen Ken Carrick and Keith Butler, committee members Lee Leary, Guy Chamberlain and Jennifer Underwood. Also, many of the Greater Carolinas board members brought in teams and auction items:

- Renee Brown - presenting golf sponsorship
- Robert Gulliver - presenting golf sponsorship
- Keith Butler – golf four-
- Ken Carrick – co-sponsorships for golf (2);
- Delano Little (golf emcee); hole-in-one car sponsorship
- Guy Chamberlain – golf foursome (1); box lunches for golf
- Cutter Davis – golf foursome (1)
- Randall King – golf four-



- Tate Ogburn – golf foursome (1)
- Gary Sullivan – golf foursome (1)
- Chuck Melman – golf foursome (1)
- Chuck Edwards – auction item

Thanks also to Chairman of the Board Mike Rash for stewarding our sponsors and cheering on the winning putters!

For pictures from the tournament, visit [greatercarolinasredcross.org](http://greatercarolinasredcross.org)

## From the CEO: Holidays are a time for giving

Warm greetings to all!

As the holidays approach I am often asked, "How can I help the Red Cross during this time?" The economy has certainly hit us hard both in decreased donations and in greater client needs. Anything our Red Cross supporters can do to help our community work at this time will be greatly appreciated. Here are a few

ideas – details are in this month's newsletter:

- Give a year end donation to the Greater Carolinas Chapter
- Get a holiday card from our chapter that allows you to give a gift to the American Red Cross in honor of family or friends



- Sign up for Facebook and vote!
- Buy Belk coupons
- Come to a Change a Life tour and bring a few friends
- Join us at the Red Cross Turkey Bash
- Give blood
- Make a contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund

*“There were, in fact, several people ‘sleeping on the ground.’”*

## Disaster response goes deep in the heart of Texas

### By Rick Schou

Large disaster events such as hurricanes do not discriminate when it comes to whose homes or businesses are affected. However, it does seem that some affected communities receive more support and publicity than others.

Early this month, I found myself in the southern part of Chambers County, Texas, running down rumors that there were people sleeping on the ground in the communities of Oak Island and Smith Point – Chambers County is just east of Houston, and across Galveston Bay from the Bolivar Peninsula.

The first person I ran into was the pastor at Oak Island Baptist Church. He was organizing a local distribution center under a tent set up on the church property. The church itself had 7 feet of water flowing through it as the storm surge came across the community.

The Baptists had erected a large tent where community members could drop off items such as food, water, clothing, infant supplies, pet food, etc. The pastor had also salvaged a few pews from the sanctuary and set them under this same tent so he could continue Sunday morning services. Other community members brought additional chairs as the Sunday morning attendance had doubled since Hurricane Ike blew through.

The county health department had threatened to quarantine the southern part of the county if the communities didn't bring in washers and dryers and portable shower units.

The county did provide a shower trailer and parked it across the street from the church. A community agency provided a washer and dryer for the Oak Island residents to wash clothes. The health department backed off the quarantine threat.



**Hurricane Ike's strong winds, plus several feet of water caused major damage to this home in Sabine Pass, Texas.**

I did find the church was distributing camping tents, which slept three or four people. Many of these homes had been elevated on stilts, but the storm surge lifted a number of homes off their stilts and sent them crashing to the ground.

Because looting had become such an issue, families were setting up these tents on their home property to protect what was left of their home from scavengers. For this reason, the large majority of these people did not take advantage of the Red Cross shelter, which was set up in an American Legion Hall 10 miles north of Oak Island in the town of Anahuac. So, there were in fact several people “sleeping on the ground.”

The Red Cross was providing some meals to Oak Island via an emergency response vehicle, but there was no suitable, undamaged facility in which a shelter could open. Unlike on Galveston Island, Chambers County had not requested, through the state of Texas, a large temporary shelter structure.

Before I left, the pastor had placed a call to the Chambers County Emergency Manager to see if they would be willing to make this request for his community. I have not

been able to find out if that request went through.

They do know that FEMA is negotiating for a 90 acre tract of land on which they will place FEMA “cottages” for qualifying disaster victims. However, it will take at least 90 days to set up these living facilities once the negotiations are settled. In the meantime, there are people who don't know what they are going to do as cold weather approaches. The community is doing all they can to support each other, and there are churches in neighboring towns that are providing some support. This county is very poor: there are no hotels and there are very few local voluntary organizations with resources to provide for their local residents.

Everyone has been provided the means to apply for federal assistance, and they are anxiously awaiting that support.

I found my role in this community to be a good listener, trouble shooter, needs assessor and an advocate for the community.. Since a lot of attention was being paid to Galveston Island and the Bolivar Peninsula, I was able to take the concerns of this community to our Partner Services folks at the operation headquarters so they might be able to identify resources that would be appropriate to help the Oak Island residents.

I still think about that local pastor at the Baptist church and wonder how that community is doing.

Whenever we hear of some community that was inundated with flood waters, or any other type of disaster, it may be difficult for us to feel empathy because it didn't affect us, or it is in a part of the country with which we are unfamiliar.

An occasional deployment to a devastated certainly changes my capacity for empathy.

**Rick Schou** is the emergency services director at the Greater Carolinas Chapter of the American Red Cross.

### **American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund**

- More than 20,000 Red Cross volunteers have helped with Gulf Coast relief efforts
- More than 900 evacuation centers were opened in 17 states
- Nearly 60,000 people were provided shelter at peak times
- More than 80,000 people were provided with health and mental health services.

**And while the storms have passed, and the media has moved on, the Red Cross is still there helping. We need your help now more than ever. Please support the Disaster Relief Fund by visiting [www.greatercarolinsredcross.org](http://www.greatercarolinsredcross.org) or by calling 704.347.8271.**

# Want to be a part of Red Cross Racing?

Through *Red Cross Racing*, the Red Cross is partnering with 3M to expand its role in NASCAR to educate the more than 75 million NASCAR fans about the ongoing need for blood donations.

The Red Cross is already engaged with NASCAR through a partnership with Lowe's Home Improvement, as well as the efforts of the NASCAR Foundation and the various race tracks to hold and promote blood and bone marrow collections.

Race fans can visit [redcrossracing.com](http://redcrossracing.com) to sign up for a new donor rewards program and get points for blood donation activities, which can then be exchanged for Red Cross Racing gear including caps, T-shirts, jackets and limited edition die-cast cars.

Registrants are also eligible to enter a Sweepstakes drawing to win one of two (one whole blood donor and one platelet donor) all-expense-paid trips for two to the Daytona race in February 2009.

The prize packages include airfare, hotel and two race tickets.

"I'm proud to be an American Red Cross blood donor," said Greg Biffle, driver of the No. 16 Roush Ford and member of the American Red Cross National Celebrity Cabinet. "I gave blood because it's easy to do and helps support our community. I hope NASCAR fans across the country will join me this racing season in helping to save lives, one drive at a time."

"We hope NASCAR fans will follow Greg Biffle's lead and sup-



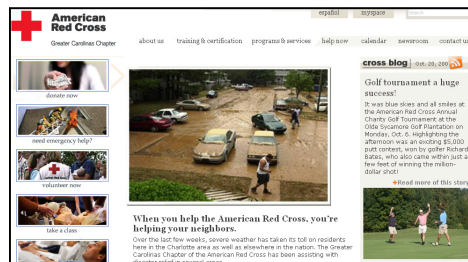
**Greg Biffle speaks with Red Cross blood donors. Biffle, driver of the No. 16 Roush Ford, is a member of the American Red Cross National Celebrity Cabinet.**

port the Red Cross by donating blood," said Robert F. Fechner, CEO of the American Red Cross Carolinas Blood Services Region.

"Red Cross Racing is an exciting opportunity for those fans who want to become dedicated blood donors."

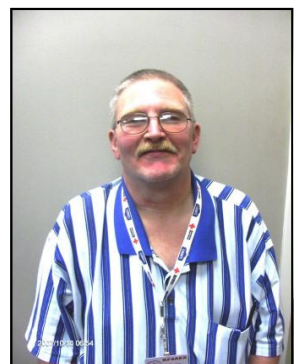
## Check out our new Web site

We've got a new look! Our new site presents the GCC in a new, easy-to-read format. Feel free to log on and surf our new and improved site at [www.greatercarolinascross.org](http://www.greatercarolinascross.org)



## Volunteer spotlight on Russell Beck

Russell Beck is a disaster action team captain in Statesville. He has demonstrated his strong leadership skills and dedication to the DAT teams by training new volunteers and providing support.



Russell has volunteered his time on several National Deployments and always willing to help in the Statesville office to assist with projects or day-to-day needs.

He makes time to drive veterans to the Veterans Affairs hospitals in Winston-Salem and Salisbury for medical appointments.

Russell enjoys working with ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) in Iredell County, where he is an active member.

We are so delighted to be in the company of an outstanding volunteer who exemplifies the American Red Cross Mission.

Thank you for volunteering and for your dedication to the Greater Carolinas Chapter.

## Buy at Belk and help the Red Cross!

We will be participating in Belk Charity Days!

We will be selling coupons for \$5, and customers can use the coupons to take \$5 off their purchase in addition to storewide savings of **20 to 50 percent!** Take advantage of these coupons and savings opportunities at **any** Belk store on Nov. 15.

The \$5 used to buy the coupon will be donated to our chapter.

**ALSO** — When you purchase a \$5 coupon, you will be eligible to win a **\$1,000 shopping spree!**

Greater Carolinas Chapter representatives will be at the door of the Belk from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 6 to 8 a.m. on Nov. 15 to sell tickets.

Tickets are also available now! Purchase a ticket either at the Belk in Mooresville at the previously mentioned times or by contacting Deb McClure ([McClureD@usa.redcross.org](mailto:McClureD@usa.redcross.org)) or Janine Wilson ([WilsonJanine@usa.redcross.org](mailto:WilsonJanine@usa.redcross.org)) or by calling 704.664.2500.

Happy shopping!



# American Red Cross

Greater Carolinas Chapter

## American Red Cross - Greater Carolinas Chapter

With offices in Charlotte, Lake Norman and Statesville

Charlotte: (704) 347.8224

Lake Norman: (704) 664.2500

Statesville: (704) 873.9751

Have news for us? Shoot us an e-mail at [meierk@usa.redcross.org](mailto:meierk@usa.redcross.org)

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.



## Calendar — November events

**Blood Drives:** For a comprehensive list of our blood drives, visit [greatercarolinasredcross.org](http://greatercarolinasredcross.org).

It's that time of year — a time for giving. That's why the Carolinas Blood Services Region is partnering with WBTV for the "Thanks for Giving" drives this month. For more information, contact Melissa Mark at [MarkM@usa.redcross.org](mailto:MarkM@usa.redcross.org).

**Club Red:** Club Red is a social net-

working group for young professionals interested in volunteering and helping their community through the Red Cross.

Club Red will be offering discounted tickets to the Charlotte Bobcats/Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game Dec. 6. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Greater Carolinas Chapter. For more information, contact Kate Meier at

[meierk@usa.redcross.org](mailto:meierk@usa.redcross.org).

**Take a tour:** Our "Change a Life" tours are offered every month and by appointment. Take a tour at 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, or at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17. For more information, contact Dan Ogburn at [OgburnD@usa.redcross.org](mailto:OgburnD@usa.redcross.org).

**Fundraiser:** Come to the Red Hot Turkey Bash! For more information, see below.

## Vote for us on Facebook!

The Greater Carolinas Chapter is on Facebook! The Western Union Foundation recently announced a partnership with Facebook to give Facebook members the opportunity to vote and express their affinity toward a group of non-governmental organizations, including the American Red Cross. The partnership is called "Our World Gives," and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) users can select an organization to support. The charity chosen by the Facebook community will receive \$50,000 from the Western Union Foundation.

We would love to be the charity to receive this contribution. Please help spread the word about the Red Cross' participation in this partnership.

Visit [www.greatercarolinasredcross.org](http://www.greatercarolinasredcross.org). The link for our Facebook page is at the top, and you can link to "Our World Gives" from there.

**American Red Cross** save the date for this year's premier social event  
Greater Carolinas Chapter

# redhotturkeybash

6-11 p.m. tuesday, nov. 25  
wachovia atrium (301 s. tryon st.)  
parking available at two wachovia center garage for a reduced rate

\*\*\*purchase advance tickets by Nov. 20\*\*\*

\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door  
\*includes food, drinks and music by liquid pleasure  
for more information, call 704.643.3038

**clubred**  
(volunteering + networking + volunteering)