

Michiana Parrot-Graph

What's on Tap – The Real Souper Bowl!

Oh, there's some fun stuff coming up – birthday party, Christmas party, Cubs World Series celebration (hey, "Jimmy Dreams" and so do we!) – but the big one is just around the corner.

It's our annual Empty Bowls Soup Dinner, taking place on Saturday, October 10, at the Upper Deck at Coveleski Stadium.

This fundraiser helps out REAL Services, which helps out a lot of people in desperate need who can use all the help they can get.

For the \$20 admission, people get to eat a variety of soups, bid on items from an auction, buy tickets for raffle items, enjoy a variety of beverages (adult and otherwise), and take home a nice ce-

ramic bowl made by Penn High School art students. This last item is to remind them that there are people who have empty bowls every night, because they don't have anything to eat.

We've been able to raise a lot of money each year we've held this event, and we need to do so again this year.

That means we need everyone's help. We need people to get soup donations from area restaurants, and from anyone who wants to offer up their best soup creation. We need people to collect auction and raffle items. We need people to help set up the dining room. We need people to help clean up. We need people to make sure everyone has a good time.

In other words, we need . . . YOU!

Whatever way you can help, please let Carey Bert know right away.

We know times are difficult for people, but c'mon – we're pretty damn good at this. Come lend a helping hand to those who need it, and let's fill a lot of empty bowls.



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Welcome to the Phlock

Our newest members. Remind them of their duty to swallow live goldfish upon our command – oops, sorry! We were having a college fraternity flashback. Never mind!

- Joan Ackley – Mishawaka
- Mike and Abby Bracken – Elkhart
- Dana and Rhea Trowbridge – Mishawaka
- Joe and Jacki Beath – South Bend
- Kelly Yoder – Elkhart
- Travis Smith – Granger
- Robert Brogan — Marcellus MI

Now THAT Was a Party With a Purpose!

What a cool time on a hot night.

Our COTA fundraiser with Howard Livingston and Mile Marker 24 at Simeri's was Exhibit No. 1 of everything that makes you proud and happy to be a Parrot Head.

We raised over \$2,000. We pulled it together in a short

amount of time. Lots of people pitched in to help before, during and after. The weather was Key West-steamy, which was appropriate since our band hailed from that Parrot Head Holy Land – and they put on a whale of show. We helped a 20-month-old child who needs a lifesaving operation. We were honored to have the

parents of a beautiful young girl who sadly passed away before we could help her. Yet, despite a heartbreaking experience few can fathom, they smiled and sang and danced along with all of us as we celebrated life and giving and helping one another.

See PURPOSE page 2

Now THAT Was a Party With a Purpose – cont.

And, we had an absolutely fabulous time doing it.

In fact, we might have just inaugurated a new summer fundraiser. Simeri’s certainly enjoyed the business we brought in and it’s an undeniably fantastic venue for a Michiana island party, and everyone who attended that Tuesday night in June clearly had a blast. So, why not do it again next year?

More importantly, we didn’t all gather there just to hear a fun band and have a few beers. (Though those were certainly nice side benefits, no doubt.) We went to all that trouble because, no matter our

own situation, there are people who have greater troubles than us. They need help, they have children that need help, and we exist as an organization mainly to offer our help when and where we can.

We might not be the United Way or some other large-scale force for good that can raise millions of dollars to help others. But, we do what we can selflessly, generously and with a smile, and we sure have a lot more laughs than the United Way.

The friendships we’ve made, the parties we enjoy, the selfless, easygoing camaraderie at every gathering – those all leave

us feeling wonderful and happy. However, that pales in comparison to the feeling of making someone else who really needs it feel wonderful and happy.

So here’s to the Parrot Heads in Michiana. May we always make others feel better.

Our COTA fundraiser with Howard Livingston and Mile Marker 24 was Exhibit No. 1 of everything that makes you proud and happy to be a Parrot Head.

Getting’ Our Kicks

Kickball championship of the world – here we come!

That’s how great our kickball team played in the annual B.A.S.S. Kicks for Kids Kickball Tournament on June 20. A grueling three-practice pre-season allowed us to ease into our normal supply of pulled muscles and aching legs, and also enabled us to do some major ball (and ass) kickin’ on game day.

We kept winning and winning, which meant we kept playing and playing. It was a Cinderella story that captured the hearts of every fan there while breaking the hearts of those running the beer tent who counted on our attendance to generate a profit.

Despite our gritty, determined effort, we eventually went down in defeat, finally allowing us some quality time in the beer tent. There, in a first-class display of sportsmanship, we respectfully saluted the opponents we vanquished, noting that if we could beat them, they had to be truly awful.

From start to finish, inning after inning, we displayed tremendous athleticism. There was Wayne "Alfonso Soriano" Ryan, deftly dropping easy fly balls in

left while hauling in some tough catches. Tim "One-Eyed Willie" Metz tried to catch a ball with his sunglasses and instead nearly sliced off his right eye, yet continued playing with it dangling from its socket like a yo-yo.

Darrell "Mary Lou Retton" Womack put on a gymnastics exhibition with a diving, rolling, flipping, flopping, somersaulting, leaping, juggling near-miss on an infield pop-up. Jeff "Ron Santo" Hungerford was a cool customer at the hot corner.

Bubba "Ol' Aches 'n' Pains" Swihart really showed his toughness. He pulled a hamstring sprinting from the parking lot to the beer tent, then broke a rib in a frenzied effort to dig beer money out of his pocket. Still, he played every inning of every game, despite also suffering gout, kidney stones, arthritis, mumps, the heartbreak of psoriasis and even menstrual cramps.

Though he didn’t take the field, Bill "And the Horse You Rode in On!" Ernsperger played a key role as Most Valuable Cheerleader. His constant positive support of his fellow Parrot Heads – "Hey (fill in Parrot Head name), you suck!" – proved inspiring. Oddly, his attempts to offer similar encouragement

The Parrot Head Kickball team was a true Cinderella story – if Cinderella was a slow-moving, beer-swilling facsimile of an athlete.

to our opponents – "This broad’s an easy out!" – weren’t as well received, leading to several near riots.

All in all, it was a fun day for a good cause, and we’re eagerly looking forward to next year’s tournament, which will be just about the time when we’re able to walk normally again.



Food for Thought

Despite the plethora of parties and Phirst Tuesdays/Thursdays and other social events, we still managed to squeeze in another food drive on Saturday, August 1. Parrot Heads staked out two Martin's locations, Bittersweet in Mishawaka and Erskine Plaza in South Bend, and ~~harassed~~ ~~bullied~~ kindly asked shoppers to ~~hand over~~ please donate ~~beer~~ much-needed food items for the Penn Township Food Pantry and the Northern Indiana Food Bank.

By being as ~~intimidating and threatening~~ persuasive and gentle as could be, we

were able to collect almost \$1,000 and 11 pallets of food between both locations. And if we'd been able to tackle every person who tried to avoid us, we would have had even more. As it was, we got as many as we could.

Of course, being Parrot Heads, we tackled them nicely – we were the only ones bruised and scraped up afterwards. Except for the one guy who was so determined to avoid us he didn't look where he was going and ran straight out the door and into a stack of grocery carts being pushed by a Martin's employee.

Naturally, being Parrot Heads, we helped him back up and helped pick up his scattered groceries . . . and also helped ourselves to a couple of his canned goods for our troubles.

OK, that may or may not have happened – but that's how far we were willing to go to help those in need. We might put the "fun" in fundraiser, but we also put the "hell" in helping hand, too!

Stack Attack: Pancake Breakfast Helps COTA

Our Simeri's Island Party wasn't our only fundraiser this year for our friends at COTA. We also held our annual spring pancake breakfast at the north Mishawaka Applebee's, where we raised money for David Dean, a young man suffering from Prune Belly Syndrome.

A rare, congenital disorder of the urinary tract, Prune Belly Syndrome produces a number of complications, including the distending and enlarging of internal organs such as the bladder and intestines, and can lead to kidney failure. Nearly 50 percent of infants with Prune Belly Syndrome – 95% of which are male – are

stillborn or die within a few weeks of birth from severe kidney or lung problems.

Once again, we did what we do best: transform an ordinary setting into a tropical paradise, fill it full of laughter and good spirits, transport our guests to the tropics, and raise some money for a good cause.

We helped serve a hearty breakfast to plenty of hungry, generous diners, then helped serve ourselves to a hearty party filled with plenty of thirsty, degenerate

drinkers, courtesy of our generous hosts, Melanie and Jeff Hungerford.

So, thanks, Melanie and Jeff, for letting us all come over and aggravate, annoy and frighten your neighbors. Thanks to Marlene and her crew at Applebee's for the delicious food.

And, especially, thanks to everyone who helped out with the breakfast, from collecting raffle prizes to decorating to serving to cleaning to being there. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and that's never more evident than at this annual event.

Water You Lookin' At: Sunburst Water Station

Another Sunburst Marathon, another crowd-pleasing water station. We served up plenty of water and PowerAde to plenty of thirsty marathon participants, and they sure appreciated our help. Man, did those people have the runs. (Ha ha!)

We think some people run in the marathon just so they can pass through our station. And why not? We've got music playing, we're filled with energy and enthusiasm, we offer encouragement to everyone passing through, we dress better than any other water station, and we're darn sure better looking, too!

Plus, we always go above and beyond. This year, we offered not just water and PowerAde, but Power-itas, Pina Co-

waters, ice-cold beer, margaritas (frozen and on the rocks), mai tais and other tasty refreshments. Oh, sure, the runners were so tired everything tasted like water or PowerAde to them, but we know they appreciated the variety of beverages.

We also know they appreciated our lively antics and upbeat attitude. Manning (and womanning) a water station each year is a lot of fun, even if we do have to get up at an ungodly hour on a Saturday. Still, it's one of our most fun events, and well worth stumbling out of bed for.

Not only that, it's great exercise, as we jog back and forth with cups of liquid, and push our arms to near-exhaustion by

holding out cups for the runners to grab and spill everywhere, and strengthen our legs by actually standing for a couple of hours. Just watching all those people exerting themselves makes us feel in pretty good shape mentally as well, because we sure don't look as wretched as they do, what with them sweating and staggering and blistering and chafing in places we don't want to know about.

We have fun, we get in a good workout, and we can still walk when we're done without our feet feeling like they're on fire. All in all, not a bad way to start a weekend. Now, if only next year we really do offer up some ice-cold beer, and margaritas, and . . .

What's Cookin' – Gettin' All Up in Your Grill

Tired of the same old burgers and brats you grilled all summer? With tailgate season in full swing, are you looking for something else to burn beyond recognition into a charbroiled lump of over-cooked yecch? Then you're in luck!

Here are a couple of recipes offering a change of pace. They're easy, they're fun, and they include a tasty adult beverage to enjoy while preparing and cooking – and to wash everything down in case you forgot you were grilling.

(NOTE: These recipes are meant as guidelines. Feel free to add, subtract,

Bacon Wrapped Chimichurri Pork Skewers

Ingredients

Sauce:

2 cups fresh parsley leaves, packed
2 tbsp garlic, chopped
1/2 tsp ground black pepper
1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 cup olive oil
1/4 cup white wine vinegar
2 tbsp water

Skewers:

2 pork tenderloins
12 bacon slices, thin sliced
Metal skewers

Thai Barbecued Salmon

2/3 cup barbecue sauce
1/3 cup Thai chili sauce
1/4 cup minced fresh cilantro
4 salmon fillets (about 1" thick and 4 oz. each)

In a small bowl, combine the barbecue sauce, Thai chili sauce and cilantro. Set aside 1/4 cup for serving. Coat grill rack with cooking spray and cook salmon skin side down 4-5 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork, basting frequently with sauce mixture. Serve with reserved sauce.

increase or ad lib ingredients and amounts as you see fit. We won't be offended in the least.)

Pub Burgers

Ingredients:

1 lb. Ground pork
1 lb. Ground turkey breast
1 chopped green pepper
1 chopped small onion
Your favorite seasonings (spicy ones are our favorites, but use what you like)
1 pkg. Feta cheese, chopped into little tiny pieces

Instructions

Make the chimichurri first. Mince the parsley, garlic, and seasonings in a food processor. Add the oil, vinegar, and water. Process until blended. Reserve the sauce.

For Skewers:

Prepare the pork tenderloin by trimming off the silver skin and fat. Cut the cleaned tenderloin into 2" thick filets. Preheat the grill. Wrap the bacon strip around each filet, overlapping 1". Trim excess; save for another use. Thread 3-4 filets on each skewer; insert a second skewer for stability.

Boat Drink

Here's a delicious, mind-numbing drink that's refreshing all year long. You'll need a fairly large glass, and while you can use your own favorite rum, you'll find Malibu provides a nice buzz – uh, we mean, a nice taste. Also, where we indicate "shot" in the menu, we mean A HEALTHY SHOT, not some puny little ounce of liquor.

2 shots Malibu Rum
1 shot vodka
1 shot peach schnapps
Throw in some ice
Top off with orange juice

Instructions:

Mix the pork, turkey breast, green pepper, onion and seasonings in a large bowl, and mush everything together. Start making patties, but keep them on the thin side. After you've made several patties, sprinkle feta on them, then make additional patties to place on top, creating a feta sandwich. Pinch the sides of the patties together to hold in the feta. Keeping making patties in this manner until you're out of the meat mixture. Fire up the grill and cook until done to your satisfaction.

Split the chimichurri sauce into two containers. Brush the pork with the chimichurri sauce from one of the containers. Reserve the other for serving with the pork.

Grill the skewers, covered, for 4 minutes per side (including bacon sides), baste before each turn. Cook for a total of 16 minutes or until the filets reach an internal temperature of 145°F. Serve with extra chimichurri sauce.



Master these recipes and you'll become awesomely popular. You'll get invited to all the most fun places and meet tons of pretty girls – we guarantee it! Just look at the smokin' hot babes surrounding this doofus!

Phrom the President

(NOTE: Normally, our president offers some phrivolous editorial. This issue, he discusses something far more chilling and extremely serious. Please read on.)

As a public service to our club members, I feel a duty to make you aware of an insidious disease and offer advice on how to minimize its effects should you feel you may be developing any symptoms.

The disease is AAADD – Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. Here is one person's account of the struggle with this disease.

“I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier. I decide to go through the mail before washing the car.

I lay my car keys on the table, toss the junk mail in the trash and notice that the can is full. So, I put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first. But then I think, since I'm going by the mailbox when I take out the garbage, I may as well pay the bills first.

I open my checkbook and see there's only one check left. My extra checks are in my study, and once there I find a Pepsi I was drinking earlier. I pick it

up to take a drink, but it's warm, so I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Pepsi, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye and I notice they need water. I put the Pepsi on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I was searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I need to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water, and spot the TV remote that someone left on the kitchen table.

So I won't be looking for the remote later on and forget that it's on the kitchen table, I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I pour water in the flowers, but some of it spills on the floor. I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was originally planning to do.

At the end of the day, the garden isn't watered, the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there's a warm can of Pepsi sitting on the counter, the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only one check in my checkbook, the garbage can is full, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses and I don't remember what I did with the car keys. Then I try to figure out why nothing got done all

day when I feel like I was busy all day, and feel tired out.”

If this sounds like you, you may be suffering from AAADD. Please do not panic, because there is a way to minimize the effects of this disease: become more active in your Parrot Head club.

By becoming more active in the Parrot Heads in Michiana, you will have less time for household drudgery, giving you fewer opportunities to forget any domestic chores. Besides minimizing your symptoms, you'll also be helping out charitable organizations in the area that rely on our club for financial assistance.

Everybody wins, and you do not have to involve your HMO.



Ask the Doctor

In keeping with the medical and fitness tone of this issue, the following is helpful advice from someone we're pretty sure has a medical degree from somewhere.

Q: I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong your life. Is that true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it. Don't waste time on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying

that you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster.

Q: Will situps help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not! When you exercise your muscles, they get bigger. You should only be doing situps if you want a bigger stomach.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: No, not at all. Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine. This means they take the water out of the fruity bits so you get even more of the goodness that way. Beer is also made out of grain. Drink up!

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming is good for your figure, explain whales to us.



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News and Notes

Remember: Starting in October (Phlocktober?) the monthly Bizness Meeting will take place at **El Maguey** in Elkhart. We'll meet there through January, then move to the 100 Center Hacienda in February . . .

The **American Heart Association Walk** takes place on Saturday, October 10 (Phlocktober 10), the same day as the Empty Bowls Soup Night. That's no excuse for members not helping out! We need volunteers to "lei" the other walkers that morning, and also if any one wants to walk as a team, please let us know. We're also signed up online. You can make a donation to our goal, or sign up as a walker yourself. For more information, contact Kirk Carithers or visit your team page at michianaheartwalk.kintera.org/kcteam . . .

Hey, guess what? That's right — **it's election time** again! Anyone wanting to run

for president or treasurer, be advised you'll be shot by the current president or treasurer. Or was that, will be given a shot? We can't remember. At any rate, if you're interested, see Mary "Camera Queen" Swihart about submitting a position statement about why you want to be a stinking politician. Extra points if you consult the Kama Sutra for your position statement . . .

Meeting of the Minds is coming. This annual drunkfest — uh, we mean, important Parrot Head convention takes place in November, where our representatives will learn lots of new ways to become inebriated — uh, we mean, help the club . . .

Let's party! Our **fifth birthday party** is Saturday, Nov. 14 at the same American Legion Hall as the last one. Word is we're having a talent show. Knowing where our true talents lie, that means the bar will be especially crowded . . .



Let's party some more! Our **Christmas Party** takes place Saturday, December 12, at the same American Legion as the last one. We'll sing, we'll dance, we'll laugh, we'll cry, and we'll go out of our way to show our true Christmas spirit by screwing each other over with our brutal, cutthroat White Parrot Gift Exchange.