

The Michiana Parrot-Graph

From Your Phlockin' Leader . . .

Thank heaven the campaigns are over and we have our normal, crappy TV programming back! All I kept thinking through these past few weeks, was "What If the Hokey Pokey IS What It's All About?"...which lead me to the whole plastic ass thing again! (You know...put your plastic ass in, put your plastic ass out...) As I said, thank heaven it's over!

Unlike those nice pholks in Washington, we actually get things done here in Michiana! In the last couple of months, we've had some great events. Our "Empty Bowls" project was simply fabulous! We had a great time, spread the word about our organization to people who might otherwise have never known we were out here, and raised some great money for a tremendous cause. We seriously intend to make this an annual event. In addition to "Empty Bowls", some of our members volunteered on Make A Difference

Michiana Day to help clean at the heavily fire damaged Albright United Methodist Church in Mishawaka. It was hard, smelly work, but we made a huge impact in a short amount of time. Our work allowed the ministers and church secretary to move back into the church building from the trailer they have been housed in since the fire. They were extremely grateful. Probably one of the highest compliments our group has ever received was given by the volunteer coordinator of Albright Church when she found out the Parrot Heads were coming to work that Saturday. She told me that she was so happy when she found out we had volunteered to help them because she knew we would be dependable and, from seeing us in the newspaper, was familiar with the great work we did in the community! See...our reputation is growing!

Speaking of events, don't forget we have a great couple of upcoming events: the important cancer benefit on Saturday, November 25 at the American Legion on Misha-

waka Avenue with the Beach Bum Band and our annual Christmas Party with the now famous "White Parrot" gift exchange! Be sure to check out the calendar of events included in this newsletter. We hope to have a HUGE turnout for both of these events.

Finally, I would like to issue a challenge to all of our members...we NEED new members to help our club grow. Any time you get the opportunity to tell someone about our club and the great things we do for our community, please seize that chance to possibly recruit new, active members. Word of mouth is the best advertisement... and the promise of a free drink for joining, isn't a bad incentive, either! (Come on, you can bribe someone to join by offering to buy them a Boat Drink, can't you???)

- Jan Caudell

Christy Pulaski Benefit Concert/Dance

Christy Pulaski, Manager of the American Legion Post 303, has been diagnosed with liver cancer and is in need of a transplant. Please come to this event and help us to help Christy with her medical expenses and have a great time doing it.

The benefit will be held at American Legion Post 303, 2503 Mishawaka Avenue in South Bend on November

25 from 8:00 to 11:00 pm, and features our favorite Beach Bum Band! There will also be dancing, raffles, games, snacks, and, according to Mike Bouldrey, "a very reasonable cash bar"! Tickets are \$15.00 in advance or \$20.00 at the door. There is no reason for any of us to pay \$20.00 for a ticket. Call Mike Bouldrey at 574-292-0908 or 574-233-7644, or drop by the American Legion Post for tickets in advance. And did I mention that the Beach Bum Band will be

playing? And there is a very reasonable cash bar!

We are still in need of some people to work that evening and raffle items to make as much money as possible for Christy. If you can help out by working or donating some raffle prizes, please contact Mike Bouldrey directly at kbouldrey@sbcglobal.net. And don't forget about the Beach Bum Band! And the very reasonable cash bar!

Meeting of the Minds, 2006

This year marked the 15th anniversary of the Meeting of the Minds. We must admit that the weather was NOT delightful, but we still managed to have a blast.

We started out with several members meeting and going to our favorite biker bar — Alabama Jacks, on the way down to Key West.

Our schedule consisted of food, plenty of drinks and MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC> On Wednesday, there was a Welcome to the Keys party at Hog's Breath Saloon with Jim Morris and the Big Bamboo Band, who were great as usual. The weather was overcast and rainy and one night, the power went out for a short time on the whole key, but we made the most of it. *(Jan, we need details! -ed.)*

Thursday, many of us went on a sunset cruise — though no sun — which was fun, with great entertainment, and we had to find our lost match, from songs from

Jimmy.

The rain was relentless one day, so of course we had to duck into one of our favorite drinking establishments to dry off — never to dry out — and watch the craziness. The streets flooded so badly that there were actually people swimming in the streets in front of us, or sitting in pools of water and doing whatever. *(Jan, you're leaving a lot to the imagination! - ed.)*

The Street Festival was packed as usual, and the music was GREAT!!! The following musicians performed either at the Street Festival or at the CASA: Jerry Jeff Walker and his band (who introduced Jimmy to the Keys), Doyle Grisham, the Peter Mayer Group, Mac McAnally, Tina Gullickson, Michael Utley and Robert Greenidge, TC Mitchell and Fingers Taylor. How can anyone NOT have a good time?

Even though it sounds like all we did was

eat, drink and dance, we all succeeded in living up to our motto: "Party With a Purpose". Margaritaville and the Paradise Charitable Foundation who teamed up to put on the King or Queen of Somewhere Hot contest raised \$26,000 for the Bahama Village Music Program, Cancer Foundation for the Florida Keys and Girls Club of the Keys. Sheila Griffith was the winner. The raffle at the CASA raised over \$16,000. The silent auction had some wonderful items which went for sometimes over \$1,000 each — still awaiting the final total for that. And then there was the blood bank drive and the Toys for Tots drive.

If you have never been to the Meeting of the Minds, we recommend you go and have a wonderful time, but be prepared for unexpected surprises.

- Jan Womack

The Infamous MOTM Merlot Incident

The event: Meeting of the Minds 2006

The place: Key West

The beach: Casa Marina in Key West

The people involved: Fruitcake, Cabana Boy, Sue (Dan's wife's sister), Elise (Dan's sister-in-law's sister), Dan (Elise's husband, Sue's brother-in-law), Bubba, Mary, Jan, Darrell, his other brother Darrell, the Rubber Chicken, the Lady with the Big Balls

The band: Jim Morris and the Big Bamboo Band

It was a simple job. Take a picture of our Parrot Heads in Michiana members who had attended the Meeting of the Minds in Key West with the club "bag". We were enjoying the music of Jim Morris and the Big Bamboo Band on the beach stage at the Casa Marina. The night was balmy. The band was smoking'. We were surrounded by Parrot Heads. We had all had way too much to drink. It was a perfect recipe for disaster. It was "The Perfect Storm".

It had started innocently enough. It would not end that way. The cards were stacked against us. The odds were not in our favor. It happened so fast we wished there

had been an instant replay. Sadly, there was none. We may never know the whole story, but we do know the ending. Here is what we have reconstructed from eyewitness accounts of the whole sad event.

One minute we were happy campers, dancing our asses off on the beach to "Slice of the Island Life". We gathered for a picture, wanting to capture our group tossing our rubber chicken in the air just as the song instructed. It was not that simple. As Sue readied her camera to capture the sacred event, Cabana Boy grasped the chicken which was in "The Bag" which Fruitcake was holding. Little did we know that "The Lad with the Big Balls" was watching, waiting in the wings to strike. Some say that Cabana Boy, in his overzealous attempt to throw the chicken, may have struck Fruitcake with the rubber chicken. Others say it was "The Lady with the Big Balls" who dove to grab the chicken from Cabana Boy. The end result was Fruitcake with a nose full of Merlot wine, and one of her favorite island t-shirts covered in dark red wine. She looked like she had been shot.

As Cabana Boy looked on in horror, he

tried to wipe the red wine from her face. The crowd quickly dispersed from around Fruitcake, whose eyes had suddenly become red. As we surveyed the damage, we saw "The Bag" had taken a direct hit and was lying bleeding Merlot on the ground. Everyone gasped. A few people actually shed a tear.

The rubber chicken disappeared into the night. The "Lady with the Big Balls" did, too. She knew not to come around Fruitcake, who was in a murderous state of mind. "The Bag" now bears the battle scars of the fateful night for everyone who ever takes it on vacation to see. As they look at those red stains, and remember The Infamous Merlot Incident, let them remember ... "There's nothing you could do, this thing is bigger than you. Learn any more, your head just might explode."

- Carey Bert

Tips from Carey

Just some observations, reminiscences, reporting and opinions of this year's Meeting of the Minds:

It would be hard to find a nicer group of people than Parrot Heads. Combine that with 3,500 of them coming together in one of the most beautiful spots in the world, add in incredible musical acts performing all around town and you have a phantastic combination that every PH member should try to attend at least once.

Jerry Jeff Walker's performance was awesome, as he powered through some of his great songs with the help of Greg "Fingers" Taylor. Jerry Jeff, as legend has it, is the one who first brought Jimmy Buffett to Key West a long time ago. Even overcast skies did not diminish the fun of watching him under the palm trees, with the sound of the ocean in the background, on the Beach Stage at the Casa Marina.

The King and Queen of Somewhere Hot contest raised over \$26,000 for the Bahama Village Music Program, Cancer Foundation for the Florida Keys and Girls Club of the Keys.

The Meeting of the Minds blood drive is now the largest blood drive in the Keys. This year 95 MOTM'ers attempted to donate blood. Out of those 95 attempts they were able to get 83 pints for a hit rate of 87%. Of those 83 pints, they were able to distill three quarts of tequila, two pints of whiskey, and a fifth of rum. (OK, I made that last part up.)

Here's a tip: If you go upstairs at the Bull and Whistle bar on Duval Street to the Garden of Eden on the third floor (this is the

clothing optional rooftop bar) and you see the BIG sign at the top of the stairs which says "NO PICTURES"...well, they really mean it. As soon as your flashbulb goes off you will have more bouncers after you than you would ever imagine. And they really do not have much of a sense of humor about these things. Not that we have any personal experience in this area.

The Parrot Heads of the Upper Keys hosted a very nice party at a home in Key Largo on Monday afternoon for anyone traveling down from the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale area to Key West. They served Painkillers, which were very awesome and slightly strong rum and pineapple drinks. Their club initials are P.H.U.K. and they have some awesome hats which have those initials on the front.

The Great Lakes Regional Clubs hosted a sunset cruise on Thursday evening. Although there was not much of a sunset due to overcast skies, they did have beer, wine and champagne and a great singer named Matt Wahl who entertained the inebriated...I mean the fun-loving group of club members from all over the Midwest.

Shots of tequila, mixed with beer, wine, rum and champagne sounds like a good idea in theory. But it's not. Right, Bubba?

Here's another tip: When riding in the back seat of a convertible, and sitting up on the back of the seat because you have more people than should actually be in the car, don't wear a hat. They tend to blow off into the street behind you.

Another tip: The Key West Police Department does not find it amusing to see someone riding in a convertible, sitting on the

back of the seat because there are more people in the care than should actually be there. They do not find it amusing at all. They may yell at you with their loud bullhorn and make a quick spin around the block to follow your care and maybe even stop it...unless you quickly sit down like you should have done in the first place so when they do come back and get behind you they see that you are now seated and only yell at you with their bullhorn again telling you that "That is the right way to ride in a car." Not that anything like that really happened.

Don Middlebrook is not only a talented singer and songwriter, but he is a really nice man. We ran into him on Duval Street at 2:30 in the morning the evening before our wedding anniversary dinner at Mangoes. He insisted on showing up the next night to serenade our group, bringing an entourage of his fans who wanted to come along to hear him sing to us. It was very touching and memorable.

Sneaking into the hotel hot but after it is closed is quite fun and makes for some interesting memories. Couple it with the fact that everyone except Cabana Boy had not brought a bathing suit, and it gets even more memorable. Not that anything even close to this ever happened. And than God Mary was not there to capture it all in pictures.

-Carey Bert

PHiM Fills Some Empty Bowls

On October 13, in recognition of World Hunger Day, the Parrot Heads in Michiana sponsored the "Empty Bowls Project" to raise funds for REAL Services Senior Nutrition Sites. What a night! The evening included food, drinks, a live band, and a silent auction. We raised over \$3,000 for REAL Services and gained several new members! This fundraising event officially puts our club over our goal of raising over \$10,000 for local charities this year!

Special thanks go to the Penn High School ceramics department for donating 160 handmade ceramic bowls, Fiddler's Hearth, Madison Center kitchen, Between the Buns, Rulli's, Chickory Café, Memorial Hospital, Jan Womack, Hacienda Restaurant, and Lewis Bakeries for providing soup, bread, chips and salsa, and to the South Bend Regional Art Museum and the numerous area artists who donated artwork and other items for our silent auction. A special thank-you also to the Upper

Deck, Sabra Nebus, and Soundwave, for their help in making this event such a success. We ate, drank, and danced the night away and truly "partied with a purpose!"

Special recognition also goes to Mike Johnson, who publicized the event and did a great deal of the legwork that made it such a success. Thanks, Mike!

Growing Older, But Not Up

Jim Reidy, October 2
 Bill Toth, October 7
 Bob Noyes, October 8
 Don VanHulle, October 13
 Mary Hatten, October 17
 Kathy Hamilton, October 18
 Cindie McPhie, October 28
 Don DeLong, October 31
 Ron Arturi, November 4
 Mike Opulskas, November 5
 Lisa Baer, November 12
 Chalee Ehas, November 18
 Sue Noyes, November 19
 Sharon Kerestury, November 25

Don Kelly, November 17
 Carey Bert, December 2
 Mike Scuzs, December 5
 Diana Nita, December 10
 Kirk Carithers, December 16
 Lillian Bert, December 20
 Kelly Foster, December 22
 Tina Jacobs, December 25
 Ryan Womack, December 25
 Jimmy Buffett, December 25
 Trudy Riggs, December 29
 Sabra Nebus, December 29

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALL!

Check out these websites for the latest in entertainment news:

www.boatdrunks.com

www.margaritaville.com

www.phip.com

www.jimmydreamz.com

www.cobo.org

Drinking Horoscopes

If you were born in the late fall or early winter, here is your drinking horoscope:

SCORPIO (Oct. 24—Nov. 21): Don't ever tell Scorpions they've had enough, for they'll smirk at you and quietly but intentionally keep tipping till they're hog-whimpering drunk, out 100-proof spite. Scorpions like to drink, and screw you if you have a problem with that. Most of them see the sauce as something to savor in itself, and not as a personality-altering tool — though if depressed, self-loathing Scorps seek total obliteration. But gener-

ally, they're fascinating drinking pals, brilliant conversationalists and dizzying flirts. They also remember everything — especially what you did when you were blitzed. Only drink with a Scorpio who likes you, and fix a pitcher of watermelon margaritas to seduce 'em — though red wine will do the trick just as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22—Dec. 21): Drinking style: In vino veritas, and for Sagittarius, in booze blurtiness: when buttered, they'll spill all your secrets and many of

their own. Tactlessness aside, Sagittarius is just plain fun to drink with. This is a sign of serious partying (what else would you expect from the sign of Sinatra, Keith Richards, the Bush twins and Anna Nicole Smith?) They're the people who chat up everyone in the room, then persuade the entire crowd to travel somewhere else — like a nightclub, or a playground, or Cancun. Good-natured hijinks are sure to ensue (including the high possibility of loopy groping; spontaneous Sag is a brilliant booty call!

Christmas Commandos Ask Our Help . . .

The Christmas Commandos are an anonymous group whose mission is to bring comfort and holiday cheer to local families who have suffered the loss of a child in the past year. Grieving families wake up on Christmas morning to find that their yard has been decorated and a bag of gifts and goodies has been left on their front porch, along with a nice letter acknowledging their grief and offering comfort at what must be a very difficult time. They also

include an angel statue with each bag of gifts, to represent the child who was lost. Last year, the Christmas commandos "ambushed" 32 homes! For those of us who have never lost a child, we can only imagine how difficult the first holiday season without a cherished child must be.

The Christmas Commandos are very secretive about who they are, but Jan Caudell happened to meet their president

and founder while volunteering to help clean up the fire damage at the Albright Methodist Church. She asks if we could collect gift wrap, outdoor decorations, and money to donate to their cause. They do not want any decorations that contain lights or require electricity — garland, bows, and baubles to hang in trees would be greatly appreciated. We will collect these items for this worthy cause at the November and December meetings.

Calendar of Events

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DATE	EVENT	PLACE AND DETAILS	TIME
11/19/06 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Hacienda at 100 Center	5:00 PM
11/25/06 Saturday	Benefit for Christy Pulaski with Johnny Russler and The Beach Bum Band	American Legion, Post 303 2503 Mishawaka Avenue South Bend, IN Tickets \$15.00 advance, \$20.00 at door	8:00 PM til 11:00 PM
12/01/06 Friday	Phirst Phriday Phlocking	To Be Announced	7:00 PM
12/17//06 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting and CHRISTMAS PARTY	Berkley Square Community Bldg. Fun, music, White Parrot gift exchange, pot luck Same place as last year Families are welcome, so keep your clothes on	4:00 PM til 8:00 PM
12/23/06 Saturday	Don Middlebrook	Cheeseburger in Paradise - Kalamazoo What else do you have to do the night before Christmas Eve???	8:00 PM til 12:00 AM
01/05/07 Friday	Phirst Phriday Phlocking	To Be Announced	7:00 PM
01/21/07 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Hacienda at 100 Center	5:00 PM
02/09/07 - 02/11/07	Caribbean Blue and Friends III ***The British Invasion***	R.S. Eastin Hotel in Roseville, MI Caribbean Blue Band with Greg "Fingers" Taylor and friends www.caribbeanblueband.com/event.php Another "lost weekend" with the Detroit PHC	Friday night through Sunday
05/04/07 - 05/06/07	Phins to the West 2007	AVI Casino and Resort Laughlin, NV www.phinstothewest.com for details	To Be Announced
10/31-07 - 11/05/07	Meeting of the Minds "Barefootin' Key West"	National Parrot Heads in Paradise convention in Key West, FL http://www.phip.com/MOTM.asp	All day, every day



PHiM Christmas Party!

As you see in the above calendar of events, our annual Christmas party will be on December 17th at Berkley Square Community Building on 8th Street, Mishawaka. We will party without a purpose from approximately 4:00 to 8:00 pm. (Well, there is always a purpose, but this is strictly a social event, not a charitable one. Not that socializing doesn't have a purpose...)

We will again have the ever-popular "white parrot" gift exchange, so if you wish to

participate, please bring a \$10—\$15 gift. Parrot, pirate, and alcohol-themed gifts seem to be the most popular, though one wonders why. The more gifts you bring, the more you get. Everyone should also bring a dish to share, as well as whatever they want to drink. Keets are also welcome, but they should bring a gift if they want to participate in the gift exchange.

Monthly Bizness Meetings Have a New Winter Venue

If you do not have e-mail, you may not be aware that we will be having our monthly bizness meetings at Hacienda Restaurant in the 100 Center between the months of November and April. The patio at Between the Buns gets a little chilly in winter, and indoors, it gets a bit noisy during the football season. We thank Hacienda for their hospitality, and Between the Buns for their understanding and graciousness.



Parrot Heads in Michiana

Parrot Heads in Michiana
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E-mail: Parrotheadsinmichiana.org

Party With a Purpose!

Key West Phest

Here are a few words from a member who attended Key West Phest, an event sponsored by the Erie club. Sounds like phun!

"Two years in a row now we have attended the Key West Phest in Erie, PA. It's just a five and a half hour drive from beautiful South Bend, IN.

Poised against the picturesque backdrop of Erie's spectacular Bayfront along the shores of Lake Erie, the Phest offers a wide variety of local food vendors, (not your typical carnival vendors), as well as a Chinese Auction, Boat Parade, keets entertainment, and some awesome music. This was the third year for this event, with entertainment from some well-known artists such as Peter Mayer, Jim Mayer, Club Trinni, Sunny Jim White, as well as some local talent in the form of Key West Express.

Saturday afternoon's entertainment was the Steel Drum High School band from New

York. We didn't get to see them this year, but last year, we found them to be an absolutely talented group of young musicians.

Erie is a great place to visit and in case of inclement weather, there are some great bars, (Scully's is one of your faves) along with some historical things to do and see.

At the entrance to the phest is a boat club and restaurant called JR's. This is where the Erie club has their meetings, somewhat of a home base for them. A great place to have a cocktail or three before heading to the phest!

The phest takes place at Liberty Park Pepsi Amphitheater and has a wonderful grass hill to take a blanket or lawn chairs to kick back and enjoy the music.

This event is totally free of charge to the general public. There is parking that you can pay for ahead of time and the proceeds go to charities designated for this event, otherwise

there is no cover charge to enter this event.

Overall, it is worth the drive, and considering the fact that the event is largely free of cost, (bearing in mind the cost of fuel), we found it well worth the time and money spent, as well as a great reason to spend time with phellow parrot heads from different parts of the country (and Canada). We met some nice people to part with and look forward to going again next year. Anyone care to join us??

Karen and Joel give this event 5 stars!

-Karen Schweisberger