

The Michiana Parrot-Graph

From Your Phlockin' Leader . . .

Dear Phlock of Parrot Heads in Michiana,

This is my final article as your president and I'm finding it very difficult to know exactly what to write. It is a rather bittersweet time for me. Sweet because I'll have some time to do things that I haven't been able to get to for the past three years (take pottery and drawing classes, clean my house, pay my bills on time...); bitter because this club means the world to me and I'm going to miss having a day-to-day role in its doings.

As some of you know, when I founded this club, I was going through a very difficult time in my life. I was in the middle of a very angry, unexpected divorce, and all my focus was on simply surviving that horrible loss. But, as I had so often heard, the best way to pick yourself up is to pick up someone else. So, rather than focus on my mess of a life, I decided that I needed to reach outside my world and give to others.

The Parrot Head philosophy of life had always been attractive to me ... Jimmy's music, palm trees on the beach, margaritas, oceans ... the whole bit. I knew there were Parrot Head clubs around, but had no idea

where they were or how to contact one. So, like all good, innate, technologically suave, lost Parrot Heads, I turned to the web to see what I could find. I stumbled upon Parrot Heads in Paradise and wrote to their membership director asking for the nearest club. There were none nearby ... Valparaiso, Fort Wayne, Indy ... but none here. Long story short, I ended up being talked into starting a new club in our area.

Honestly, I had no idea that I was getting into something as big and as great as what we have become. This club has gone so far beyond all my wildest expectations ... though I'm not sure what my expectations were when I said "yes" on that fateful day three years ago! The people I have met, the connections I have made in the community, the people and organizations that have been helped by us, and the personal pleasure I have gotten, have been amazing to say the least. I have such a deep, deep sense of personal satisfaction knowing that together, in the name of Parrot Headism, we have accomplished so much for so

many.

I am very confident that with Carey as our new president and Bubba as our new treasurer (*and Mike Johnson as our new newsletter editor — ed.*), our club will continue to help this community in immeasurable ways ... and we'll have a great time doing it. What will we be like in the next three years? Who knows? But, one thing of which I am very certain, the Parrot Heads in Michiana will become more and more known in our community, and will be a force in improving our little corner of the world.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much to those original 12 members who gave us the opportunity to start a chapter in Michiana. Thank you, too, to the many others who have joined us over the years, and to those who, three years ago, were complete strangers, but are now lifelong friends and comrades. It has been a wonderful, wild ride. I'm not going anywhere, just changing seats!

—Jan Caudell

A Parrot Head Holiday Recipe

TEQUILA CHRISTMAS CAKE

Of course, we normally put our best club recipes on the website, but this one is so special, it is worthy of the newsletter!

First, gather the following ingredients: 2 cups of flour, 1 stick of butter, 1 cup of water, 1 tsp baking soda, 1 cup of sugar, 1 tsp salt, 1 cup brown sugar, lemon juice, 4 large eggs, nuts, 1 bottle of tequila, and 2 cups of dried fruit.

Sample the tequila to check quality. Take a large bowl, check the tequila again. To be

sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar. Beat again. At this point, it's best to make sure the tequila is still OK. Try another cup...just in case. Turn off the mixer thingy. Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.

Pick the frigging fruit up off the floor. Mix on the turner. If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaters just pry it loose

with a drowscriver. Sample the tequila to check for tonsistency. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Check the tequila. Now shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Add a spoon of sugar, or somefink. Whatever you can find. Greash the oven. Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Finally, throw the bowl through the window. Finish the tequila and wipe the counter with the cat.

Bingle Jells!

Barefootin' in Key West, 2007

Greetings, Parrot Heads!

What a GREAT time we had in Key West!

The weather was THERE, and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as they seemed to be! From my vantage point, looking out at all of you, you sure looked like you were having a BLAST! (Maybe some of you just a little too much fun! LOL!)

Thank you to all in attendance and those that registered but could not make it. We had the perfect weather, the bands sounded great, the people were having a good time, and we raised money for charity. What more could you ask for? (Don't reply, it's a rhetorical question!)

Everyone really worked together to make this convention run like a well-oiled machine — it had only a few minor "hiccups", but it would not be a convention without them. The stage crews, sound people, and musicians worked together like they had been doing this every weekend for years, and the entertainment went off without a hitch. In most instances, we were actually (in very Un-Parrot Head-like fashion) ahead of schedule. I don't know how THAT happened!

The Crazy Hat Contest, "Fruitcakes on the Beach" was fantastic! The people really made some outstanding headdresses — I hope they end up on the charity DVD so that everyone will get a chance to see them. To everyone that participated, you guys did an awesome job.

Just wanted to wrap up some loose ends for MOTM 2007, 'Barefootin' in Key West."

Cruise Update

The Ernspergers, Womacks, Berts', Robbens, and Swiharts are eagerly planning their strategy for maximum enjoyment of the Atlanta Parrot Head Cruise "Trip Around the Sun" in March. They have had several "planning sessions" which

There were 142 Parrot Head Clubs that had members registered.

The top 10 (actually 11 — there were 3 tied for tenth) registered clubs:

Virtual Parrot Head Club—295; Sarasota Bay Parrot Head Club —92; Tampa Bay Parrot Head Club — 88; Parrot Heads of Central Florida — 69; The Villages Parrot Heads — 63; KW (Southernmost) Parrot Head Club —52; Parrot Head Club of Eastern Massachusetts — 50; Atlanta PHC — 47; Coast of Carolina Parrot Head Club — 47; Treasure Coast (Coconut Republic) PHC — 47; Metro New York Parrot Head Club — 47.

We had 13 clubs that joined us for the first time this year — we hope to see more of them in the years to come:

Northwest Arkansas Parrot Head Club — 17; Southern Illinois Parrot Head Club — 16; Fort White Parrot Head Club — 14; Eastern Bay Parrot Head Club — 6; Parrot Head Club of Billings — 6; PHUN coast Parrot Head Club — 6; Parrot Heads of New Mexico — 5; Simply Complicated Parrot Head Club — 5; Charlotte Harbor Parrot Head Club — 4; Parrot Heads on the St. Clair — 3; Blue Hen Parrot Head Club — 2; London Parrot Head Club — 2; and Youngstown Parrot Head Club — 2.

While we were in Key West, we kept the Blood Mobile VERY busy; they should be happy with the results. (*Question: Are they testing that blood for alcohol content? — ed.*) And in case you have not heard, we raised \$9,980.00 for Zonta of Key West!!! Way to go!!! (<http://www.zontakeywest.com/>)

I want to thank the City of Key West Public Works, Police and Fire Departments,

and the Key West Ambulance for their assistance in making our event safe for everyone, the Board of Directors of PHiP, Inc. for their support, the Chair People for their hard work and dedication, and once again, all of YOU who registered for the convention! It was a pleasure to see everyone enjoying the largest PHlocking of Parrot Heads in the land!

A BIG thank you to our sponsors, and please remember them when you are making your purchases throughout the year: Margaritaville Store, Margaritaville Café, Margaritaville Tequila, Landshark Lager, the Casa Marina Resort & Beach Club, and the Paradise Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Registration for MOTM 2008, "Bar Stools & Beach Chairs", begins on January 1, 2008. Our host hotel will be the Casa Marina Resort & Beach Club, and the convention dates are October 30 through November 2, 2008.

In closing, I want to extend a very special "Thank You" to the Margaritaville Store and the Margaritaville Café in Key West. These people carried on and supported us when they were all hurting from the loss of a member of their family during the week of MOTM. At a time when they could have just given us what we needed and let us "handle it", they stayed with us and made sure that we were taken care of. They could have just "washed their hands" of us. It just goes to show what kind of caring people they really are.

See you next year!

Bill De Walt
Parrot Heads in Paradise, Inc.
Director of Conventions

The Berts' are happy to report that at MOTM 2007, Lil did not get "merloted" and there were no further episodes involving "the lady with the big balls".

have quickly devolved into "drinking sessions". If you happen to see any of them, please provide them with the encouragement they need to stay sober long enough to make it onto the ship. That would be a good plan.

Happy Birthday to Us!

Question:

What do Parrot Heads, Santa Claus, sock monkeys, Jed Clampett, Petticoat Junction and KD Moore all have in common?

Answer: They were all present in some form at the Parrot Heads in Michiana Third Club Birthday Party.

The annual event took place on Saturday, November 10, 2007, at the American Legion Hall in South Bend. Not surprisingly, a high degree of merriment was present, as was a large dose of craziness. We had a Polish buffet dinner and the entertainment was again provided by KD Moore. KD put on a great show, covering Buffett tunes, classic rock and his own compositions.

The highlight of the night seemed to be his medley of TV show themes from a very limited segment of the genre. What? It

sounds quite crazy, but he had the entire room clapping and singing along to that classic tune, "Come and listen to a story 'bout a man named Jed." That's right . . . The Beverly Hillbillies, Green Acres, Petticoat Junction . . . all your favorites. Just remembering how Lisa Douglas looked in her nightgown, or Ellie May in those tight blue jeans, brought back many happy memories. Oh . . . and that Arnold the Pig! Soooooey!

The "Picture of the Year" contest was another high point of the evening and proved to be a tight race. It was great to look back over the three years the club has been in existence and see some of the memorable (or would that be "infamous"?) moments involving our club members. Who could ever forget the sight of Santa performing a medical exam on our club

President, Jan (*see Page 4*); or Shelly meeting two helpful hardware men at Ace Hardware; or Bubba displaying his raffle winnings while wearing a huge smile, and not much else; or Patty and her sock monkey trick; or all the other colorful outfits and flicking tongues.

A special presentation was made by Mike Bouldrey, our VP, and Don DeLong. Don painted a beach chair with tropical colors and special designs, and they presented it to Jan Caudell, our President, in appreciation of her founding of the club and her three years of service as President. It was a small memento to reward her for the hours of work it has taken to get PHiM to where it is today. Congratulations, Jan!

—Carey Bert

The First-Ever Great Lakes Regional Conference

The first-ever Great Lakes Regional Parrot Head Clubs' Meeting took place right here in Elkhart, Indiana on October 7th and 8th. The meeting was the idea of our two Regional Communicators, Dan Paterek and Barb Popescu. The purpose was to provide the 34 Parrot Head Clubs in our Great Lakes Region an opportunity to get together, meet each other, share ideas and discuss topics that were of interest to everyone, and maybe have some fun in the process.

Our club was honored to be the host of this first meeting, due to our central location in the geographic region. The meeting was held at the Jamison Inn in Elkhart, and the Friday "Meet and Greet" and Saturday "Wrap-Up Party" were at the Lakeshore Bar and Grill on Simonton Lake. Both the hotel and the bar did a fantastic job in making everyone who attended feel welcome. Johnny Russler and the Beach Bum Band entertained at the Lakeshore on Saturday, and truly outdid themselves by putting on an in-

credible performance that had everyone in the bar dancing — including the wait-staff and bartenders.

The meeting agenda covered really great areas such as recruiting and keeping members, designing club websites, fundraising ideas, finding sponsors, writing newsletters, financial updates and a ton of other discussion topics that the attendees brought up. A hot topic of discussion was the kidnapping and ransom of the Detroit Club's banner by a band of savage Amish. Pictures were shared and the whole sordid affair was played out during the course of the two-day meeting.

The Lakeshore Grill provided an excellent location for the two nightly gatherings. They even hired the Beach Bum Band to play for us Saturday night. The weather both nights could not have been any better. They were warm, clear, gorgeous October nights that allowed everyone to party out on the deck of the restaurant, overlooking Simonton Lake. The Parrot

Heads in Michiana members were much in attendance, and helped add to the festive atmosphere.

The feedback and reaction to the first meeting was so great that planning is already underway for the second annual Regional Meeting. The location has not yet been decided, but early indications are that it could be held around Memorial Day.

—Carey Bert

A special thank-you to Colleen Kielton who did much of the legwork for the regional conference. The setting, accommodations, food, drink and entertainment were phantastic, and everyone said so!

Our President and Founder



Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	PLACE AND DETAILS	TIME
01/20/08 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Hacienda at 100 Center	5:00 PM
02/08/08 - 02/09/08	Halfway to Phlocking KD Moore, Johnny Rodriguez, Corned Beef & Curry, The Junkanoo Brothers	Commodore Perry Inn & Suites Port Clinton, OH 1-866-385-3101 http://www.phlocking.com	Friday night and all day Saturday
2/16/2008 Saturday	CANUSA 2008 Sunny Jim White and Jim Morris	Hamilton Courtyard Marriott Hotel Upper James Street-Lancaster Room Hamilton, Ontario	7:00PM - 1:00AM \$35.00 per person Raffles, Door Prizes, Food Buf- fett
02/17/08 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Hacienda at 100 Center	5:00 PM
02/23/08 Saturday	Island Beach Bash Fundraiser for Special Olympics Pirates Over 40	Giovanni's Convention Center & Holi- day Inn of Rockford Rockford, IL http://www.niphc.com/	6:00 PM
03/16/08 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Hacienda at 100 Center	5:00 PM
04/04/08 - 04/05/08	FlipperStock Phins, Jim Hoehn, 12 Volt Band, Jimmy & the Parrots, Calypso Nuts	Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel St. Louis, MO http://flipperstock.com	7:00 PM \$40.00 per person
04/20/08 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Hacienda at 100 Center	5:00 PM
04/18/08 - 04/20/08	Party in Parrot-dise	Indian Lakes Resort Bloomingdale, IL Entertainment schedule to be an- nounced soon www.indianlakesresort.com	Friday night through Sunday
05/18/08 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Between the Buns in Osceola	5:00 PM
06/12/08 - 06/15/08	Phlocking of the Phaithful All-Star lineup	Put-in-Bay, OH http://www.phlocking.com/	All day, every day
Oct or Nov - date TBA	Empty Bowls Project	To benefit Real Services of St. Jo- seph County	TBA
10/30/08 - 11/02/08	Meeting of the Minds "Bar Stools and Beach Chairs"	National Parrot Heads in Paradise convention in Key West, FL http://www.phip.com/MOTM.asp	All day, every day Registration open on January 1

Monthly Bizness meetings will take place at Hacienda Restaurant in the 100 Center during the winter months.

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Party With a Purpose!



Parrot Heads Fill Empty Bowls

On October 19, Parrot Heads gathered together with folks from REAL Services and other members of the community for our Empty Bowls Project. In addition to having a great time, we managed to raise \$3,384 for REAL Services Senior Nutrition Program!

In this, my last issue as your editor, I would like to share my thoughts about Empty Bowls, which has come to be my favorite Parrot Head event. While the food and music are great, the mood is festive, and the artwork is beautiful, the feature of Empty Bowls that I find truly impressive is the way that so many members of the community come together to show they care and to make it a success. We Parrot Heads may be the point upon which the event pivots, but many people and organizations contribute to this

event. We are fortunate to live in such a caring community.

So thank you, Parrot Heads in Michiana, REAL Services, Alzheimer's Services, and all of you who sold tickets to the event. Thank you to all of you who helped promote it, especially Mike Johnson and Chalee Ehas, Buddy King, and local radio stations and newspapers.

Thank you to all the local artists and artisans who contributed to our silent auction, particularly Becky Brown and her students at the Penn High School Art Department, and most especially her two star students, Kim Veal and Sam Blayee. Thank you also to Deb Jerome, Connie Paridaen, and the South Bend Regional Museum of Art.

Thank you to the Upper Deck, for provid-

ing us with a great venue, and to Nate the bartender, whose presence always adds to the fun. Thank you, Kevin Peek, for the great music. We could have danced all night.

Thank you to the many local restaurants, caterers, and cooks who contributed soup, bread and chips to fill our empty bowls: Hacienda, Appleby's, Culver's, TGI Friday's, Rulli's, Macadoo's, Between the Buns, Lewis Bakeries, Sabra Nebus, and Kevin Peek's mom.

Thank you to all you Parrot Heads who came early, left late, took time to track down donations, take tickets, count money, work the kitchen, and make the whole event "go". We really gave meaning to the word "community".

-Marianne Robben