

Michiana Parrot-Graph

Phrom the Editor

Well, well, well. An awful lot sure has happened this year, so much so that each time we sat down to write about one event, another event took place, then another and another.

Before we knew it, a quarter half most of the year had flown by, and coupled with our predisposition to operate on Island Time, our newsletter kept getting pushed aside as we reached for another ice cold . . . uh, we mean, nice bold pen to write down some notes for another newsletter article.

Anyhoo, we finally got down to the business of reporting on all the Parrot Heads in Michiana business that's

taken place this year, punny and otherwise – and we have done a ton of cool stuff so far in '08:

Caribbean cruise. Alzheimer's walk. Pancakes in Paradise. Sunburst water station. Phlocktail hours. WNIT fundraiser. Kickball for Kids. Mooning the cops on Dyngus Day. (Wait, that was NOT a Parrot Head event – never mind!) Bi-polar Food Drive. On the River Beach Party in downtown South Bend. The Whaleshark.. Empty Bowls Night. Road trips. Casino trips. Lots of bands, ballads, beaches and . . . hmmm, we know there's something else . . . bands, ballads, beaches . . . dang, it's right on the tip of our tongue.

Oh, well. We'll head off to the bar and think about it some more.

And, of course, the annual summer pilgrimage to see JB himself.

Yep, it's been some year so far, and all the above barely covers the fun stuff, the good stuff, and the fun good stuff we've done this year. There's a lot of excitement coming up to finish up the year.

Our Birthday Party. Our Christmas Party. So, keep your blenders ready, the Landsharks on ice and the rum within reach – and let's keep letting our Caribbean Soul get out of control!

Dis 'n' Dat

Wanna Be Famous?

This is your newsletter, so tell us what you want to see. (besides it coming out in a reasonable amount of time).

Got an interesting story to tell about a vacation or a personal achievement?

Got a business you'd like to promote to drum up more business?

How about some gossip? Want to embarrass anybody, especially if there are photos we can post online?

Got an idea for a worthy group or organization we can help?

Send any articles, ideas, jokes, gossip and embarrassing photos to : editor@parrotheadsinmichiana.org.

Welcome to the Phlock

We've picked up some new members recently. Be sure to say hi to these new Michiana Parrot Heads! (And until they catch on, let them know their initiation includes buying a round of drinks at each meeting for their first year.)

- Nancy Doherty
- Cecile Taylor
- Al and Michelle Wiggs
- Angie Reese
- Matt Fisher
- Lora Shutes
- Jamie Brazo
- Kim Brazo
- Arthur and Gloria Colvin
- Frank Gaba

A Few Reminders

Pay Up!

Do not forget your yearly dues are due, so do be sure to do what you gotta do and do send in your dues payment. We do appreciate it! Those of you who haven't, do pay up right away — it's your Parrot Head duty!

Election Time

No, not THAT election. It's PHiM Election Time. Get ready to cast your vote for club officers. Send nominations to Mary Swihart by Oct. 31 at dancelaughnsing@comcast.net. Ballots will go out in November, and will be due on Nov. 30. Please remember to vote early and vote often. It's easy -- no

smears! No slime! No negative commercials!

It's no debate -- this election is for good stuff only. Even better: the bars will stay open all day long on PHiM Election Day. You can exercise your right to vote and then celebrate Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happy Hour!

Phrom Your Phlockin' Leader

Hello Phellow Phlockers! This is my first newsletter column as President of Parrot Heads in Michiana. It's hard to believe that 2008 is already almost over. Before you know it we'll be having our Christmas Party.

I hope your summer was a busy and fun one, and I also hope you were able to take advantage of the many activities and events put on by the clubs in the Parrot Head Nation. Your membership in **Parrot Heads in Michiana** is as valuable an asset as you want to make it. If you take advantage of it, you have access to a network of generous, fun, caring, energetic people who want to make our world a better place, and have a great time while doing it.

My involvement in the Parrot Head Club has opened up so many possibilities and opportunities for filling my days. There are such a wide variety of events to attend – social, charitable, and a combination of both.

So far this year, we have had a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, participated in Relay for Life and the Alzheimer's Walk, manned a water station at the Sunburst Marathon, organized a great Food Drive, collected for Crib Club and American Heart Association, and played in the

Kicks for Kids kickball tournament.

Along with our monthly Bizness Meetings we added a well-attended monthly social hour. As a club, we attended other Midwest regional club events such as Phlocking of the Phaithful, Halfway to Phlocking, Party in Parrot-dise, Atlanta Parrot Head Club cruise, and the Detroit Parrot Head Clubs pre-concert parties.

Attending a meeting where you do not know anyone can be intimidating. There is the feeling that you're an outsider who is inserting themselves into a group of friends. It may be easier to put off attending events because of this fear. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When we first started the club in October 2004, virtually none of the members knew each other. We built our relationships by attending meetings and events, and getting to know each other in that way. We attended other club's events, even when not knowing anyone in their club. I can honestly say, I have never felt out of place, or anything but welcomed, at any event I have attended.

Take advantage of the many events that our club and other clubs put on. They're all for a good cause, and you'll always have a great time, meet fantastic people

and hear outstanding music. You can find our calendar of events, plus other club schedules and events in the Great Lakes Region events calendar, on our website at www.parrotheadsinmichiana.org.

Remember, when you're on vacation in another city, see if there is a club in that city and find out if they have any events going on. I can assure you that you will be welcomed with open arms and will have a great time.

Carey Bert
President
Parrot Heads in Michiana

"In Parrot Heads in Michiana, you have access to a network of generous, fun, caring, energetic people who want to make our world a better place, and have a great time while doing it."



Look Your Best

As those great philosophers ZZ Top once said, "Every girl crazy 'bout a sharp-dressed man!"

Of course, every man is crazy about a sharp-dressed girl (or even better, a sharp undressed girl), but we digress.

The point is, you can look your phashionably phinest in NEW Parrot Heads in

Michiana T-shirts that are now available in prices from \$15-\$18.

And, we're taking orders for embroidered material. For more details, see the lovely Mistress of Merchandise, Jan Womack. Or, contact her at onesourcesolutions@msn.com.

Phun with Phillers

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

What It Means to Be a Parrot Head

People often ask me: “What the hell’s a Parrot Head?” And I proudly answer: “Watch your damn language!”

Then, I try my best to explain what a Parrot Head is. I start by quickly telling them that while we started with a shared appreciation for the music of Jimmy Buffett, there’s a whole lot more to it.

I tell them that before they think we just sit around guzzling margaritas and listening to Buffett tunes all day; that first and foremost we’re community-minded individuals who devote a fair amount of time helping our community be a better place in any way we can – whether it’s raising money, participating in another fundraising group’s activities, or volunteering for a variety of worthy causes and events. In short, to anything we can do to help others and trying try to make a positive difference.

And, that we have fun doing so. We have a group of bright, witty, interesting people with a zest for life and laughter. We get to show off our fashion sensibilities through our affinity for flowered shirts and other tropical attire. The men even get to indulge their tropical cross-dressing fetishes by wearing grass skirts and coconut bras. Plus, we don’t mind celebrating our good deeds with a couple of adult beverages afterward. (By “couple” I mean “many.”)

Still, all joking aside, the most satisfying thing about being a Parrot Head to me is the chance to do something for others that really need the help. For instance, our Pancakes in Paradise breakfasts to raise money to help kids needing organ transplants in order to survive – which is a heartbreaking situation to consider. Or hosting the Empty Bowls night to recognize all those going hungry in order to

help a community treasure like REAL Services, which has been selflessly lending a helping hand to Michiana for over 40 years.

Yeah, I like to enjoy a margarita-flavored lifestyle, having a few laughs and goofing around. But while there aren’t many things I take seriously, I truly appreciate that Parrot Heads do many serious things. Making someone else’s life a little better makes me feel a lot better.

So what does it mean to you to be a Parrot Head? Let us know by sending your comments to editor@parrotheadsinmichiana.org.

What’s On Tap

Here are just a few events to look forward to as we close out the year. Be sure to watch your email for the latest updates, or check our online calendar at parrotheadsinmichiana.org

American Heart Association Walk
9 a.m., Saturday, October 25
Leeper Park, South Bend
For information of participating and donating, visit www.michianaheartwalk.kintera.org/teamparrotheads.

Meeting of the Minds
October 27-November 3
Key West, Florida
Multiple Bars, Entertainers & Hangovers

Bank of Bad Habits Birthday Party
Saturday, November 8
American Legion
2503 Mishawaka Ave., South Bend

Featuring Johnny Russler and the Beach Bum Band

Parrot Head Tailgate Party
Saturday, November 22
10 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Tom and Nancy Majerek’s RV
Notre Dame parking lot
Party your ass off before it freezes off!
Stay tuned for details!

Bad Santa Christmas Party
Saturday, December 13
American Legion
2503 Mishawaka Ave., South Bend
Stay tuned for details!

Halfway to Phlocking
January 23-24, 2009
Commodore Perry Inn & Suites and Mr. Ed’s Bar
Port Clinton, Ohio
Featuring KD Moore, Johnny Rodriguez, The Corned Beef & Curry Band and The

Junkanoo Brothers
For reservations, call 1-866-385-3101

And, don’t forget our regular Phirst Tuesday Phlocktail Hours, held on the first Tuesday of every month at some of Michiana’s finest dives.

See you there!

We’ve Got Questions
If the police arrest a mime, do they still tell him he has the right to remain silent?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

Parrot Heads in Michiana

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Party with a Purpose

www.parrotheadsinmichiana.org

Stay in Touch

Contact Info

Got an idea for something good? Something fun? Something silly? Or all three? Need information? Want to share information? Here's who to contact, and how to contact 'em:

General Information:

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President Carey Bert:
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Club Directory

If you didn't receive your official Parrot Head Directory, lovingly compiled by Mary "I Forgot My Damn Camera Again" Swihart, then just look up her name in the directory and — oh, wait, you can't do that because you didn't get one. Sorry.



In that case, contact her at her club photographer email address above, or at dancelaughnsing@comcast.net.

It's a great thing to have, perfect for planning parties, and drunk dialing or emailing.