

September, 2006

▶ Volume 1, Issue 2

The Michiana Parrot-Graph

News From Your Phlockin' Leader

"Vampires, Mummies, and the Holy Ghost...these are the things that terrify me the most!" Our version would read "Membership Renewals, Elections, and the Golden Coconuts..." WAIT! Hey...none of those things terrify me! What am I talking about? Okay, so never mind...there is absolutely no connection between those things and Jimmy's song lyrics. Sorry!!! Hmmm...wait a minute...plastic asses...I should be able to fit that in there somewhere! I'll work on that. Stay tuned!

What I'm trying to say is that in this newsletter, you will find several very important items that need, Have To Have, ARE BEGGING FOR, your attention. And, they are:

1) **Membership Renewal Form.** Yep, that's right, another year of Parrot Headism has flown by and we are ready to renew your annual memberships. In this newsletter, you will find a user friendly renewal form. You simply need to complete the form with the required information, indicate whether you are renewing a family or single membership, write a check for the appropriate amount (**make it out to "Parrot Heads in Michiana"**), stick it in the envelope provided, and put it in the mail. Membership renewals are due by OCTOBER 1, 2006!

2) **Call for Nominations Form.** It is election time! This year, we will be electing members for the offices of Vice President, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. You can only nominate yourself...don't go stickin' Jimmy's name or Mickey Mouse or some other silly thing on there! Terms are for two years and descriptions of each position are on our website, parrotheadsinmichiana.org, under "Bylaws". You must have been a member of our club for a year in order to run for one of these coveted positions. So...if you are interested in working with a wonderful Board of Directors, would like to have more input into club workings, or would just like to fill your "spare" time, please give serious consideration to nominating yourself. Fill out the form, include your "Position Statement" (a short essay that tells why you want to run, what your goals or visions are for the club, etc.), and put it in the envelope provided. They are due to Ruth Ann Snyder no later than OCTOBER 15, 2006. However, since it is on the back of the "Membership Renewal Form", it will probably get to her sooner, since that is due October 1.

Golden Coconut Award Entry. There is nothing for you to fill out or return with this one...WHEW! This is a copy of the essay

that Carey Bert wrote as our entry for the coveted "Golden Coconut Award" given out each year to a Parrot Head Club. The essay must be about our own club, but not mention it by name. It is judged on content, creativity, humor, and, hell, I have no idea what else! The winning club gets a donation made in their name to one of their charities, and will be presented with the award during "Meeting of the Minds" in Key West this November. So, sit back, read it, and enjoy Carey's very bizarre sense of humor!!! (At least he didn't say that we sponsored "clothing optional" events...we really DON'T...don't let that rumor get started!)

Okay, that's it for my column this month. Please get your plastic asses off the chair, grab a pen and your checkbook, fill out the appropriate forms, put them in the envelope provided and jog out to the mailbox before the mailperson gets there! As always, thank you for reading my humble offering...

Your Phlocking Leader, Jan

Around the Parrot Head Nation

Ever wonder where to find the biggest phockings of Parrot Heads? Here is a list of the top ten PHiP Chapters by reported membership as of 12/31/05:

Tampa Bay PHC (863 members); Ocean City PHC (834 members); Emerald Coast PHC (701 members); Sarasota Bay PHC (631 members); PHC of Eastern MA (568 members); Quad City PHC (500 members); Virtual PHC (410 members); Coast of Carolina PHC (386 members); Metro PHC (385 members); and Galveston Bay PHC (382 members).

Golden Coconut Award Entry 2006

Our club really began years ago with a group of people growing up in the same vicinity but not knowing each other at all. Blissfully traveling through life unaware of each others existence, being pulled along on life's current' riding the rapids sometimes, drifting along peacefully and easily other times. One common thread which bound them together, although they were unaware of it at the time, was that when life overwhelmed them, when troubles piled up all around them, when life's goodness swept over them and they were content and happy, they all sat back, put on some music and reflected on the way things were. This common thread which connected them was the music of Jimmy Buffett. They all found comfort, enjoyment, and meaning; his music touched them in a way other music did not.

Some of these people had been listening to this tropical music for decades and others for just a year or two. The length of time they had enjoyed Buffett's music did not matter. What did matter was that at a particular point in their lives they all felt compelled to seek out others who felt the same way that they did, others who not only enjoyed his music but wanted to make the world they lived in a better place. Our local Parrot Head Club beckoned them and they answered the call.

Although our club has only been in existence for a short time, just a year and a half, it has grown by leaps and bounds. The first meeting was attended by six people. Five of these came back for the second, and were joined by 6 others. The third meeting was a club Christmas Party and it was very well attended by the members at that time. At that time the club was approximately 25 members, and that

Christmas marked the club's first participation in a charitable event. The event was one put on by a local television station. At that event the parrot heads made their first public appearance, and were a big hit. Our members definitely made a scene and not only helped the charities, but got our club's name and existence out in front of a large group of people.

The next big club fundraiser was a food drive in March of that year. With that event the officers began learning a lot about using the media to our benefit, and who to contact for publicity. We also began learning what did and did not work and how to utilize our membership to help with our fundraising projects. The drive was held at a busy local supermarket and was our first taste of the success of putting on a charitable event on our own. It proved to be a very addictive experience, and left many of our members hungry for more successes.

Our next event really proved to be a turning point for the club. This next taste of success came about in May from an unexpected source. Our host restaurant for our monthly business meetings had been putting on a huge Buffett text party for years. They asked if our group would like to have a section of their text to use anyway we would like. We replied, "Hell, yes we would!" As it turned out, they gave us an entire side text to use, so we decided to choose as our charity a local camp for disabled children.

We invited other Parrot Head clubs in the area and set up games, raffles, and sold "Naked Parrot" shots. We negotiated a special rate with a hotel and planned an afternoon "Meet and Greet" with food and entertainment and a bus to the tent party. We partied just like Bubba does and did the old man proud. We raised \$1,600.00

for the charity and had a blast doing it. Not only had it been the largest project we had attempted, but this particular event really got our name out there to a lot of prospective members, and we signed up a few new members in the process. Membership snowballed, and with each new event we participated in, more people expressed an interest in joining. Every meeting saw the ranks grow until the club now stands at 114 members strong.

The club's officers feel very strongly that it is important to support other clubs' events. We heavily advertise these events on our website and in e-mails and encourage our members to attend whenever possible. In addition, the officers themselves attempt to attend as many events as humanly possible. This is quite a cross to bear, since none of us really like to have much fun, and the thought of partying with other wild parrot heads is very distressing. We accept this burden, however, and try to soldier on with few complaints. For the most part this philosophy seems to work, and has seen us through some pretty trying situations. None of us has much use for alcohol, and the fact that we have had to consume this evil tonic at these events in order to try and fit in has reduced many of our members to new lows in personal behavior. They actually have woken up the next day and gasped in disbelief at what they had done the night before.

In spite of the partying, we have continued actively soliciting new members. In addition, the club has averaged some type of fundraising event or activity every two months. We are contacted consistently by businesses and also by charitable organizations who are hoping to have Buffett nights, and want our help and attendance. We have participated in many of these

Upcoming Events

Alzheimer's Walk

Remember to sign up for the Alzheimer's Walk on Saturday, September 23. The walk starts at 9:30 at Potawatomi Park, with a continental breakfast served at 8:30 AM. The Alzheimer's Association is one organization that the entire Parrot Head Nation rallies behind and we NEED to do our part. For those of you who don't know it, Jimmy's father dies of Alzheimer's. Closer to home, we have a few members, including my family, who have very personal experience with this horrible disease. As some of you know, my dad was diagnosed with Alzheimer's almost two years ago. Thanks to new medications, he has improved recently, so now when I

see him, I see mostly my real dad! That is truly a blessing!

While we all know that Parrot Heads are partiers and half-baked, (*Speak for yourself, Jan! -ed.*) we also know we have very generous, caring souls! After all, we party, but we party with a PURPOSE! Please take part in this very important event in whatever way you can...collect donations and walk with us that morning, collect money and donate it to another walker, or just donate to someone who is participating. I know that it sounds like I just want your money, but honestly, money is what is desperately needed to fight this disease that robs people of their lives, their abilities, and their dignity.

You can either contact me to get an "official" donation envelope (parrotheadsinmichiana@yahoo.com) or you can simply collect donations, write down donors' names and amounts donated on a piece of paper and put it in an envelope. (Checks should be made out to "Alzheimer's Services of Northern Indiana".) **I will need to collect your donations at our next meeting, Sunday, September 17.**

The group donating the most money gets to lead the walk that morning, so let's show them that the "Angels in Tropical Shirts" are alive and well in Michiana!!!

-Jan Caudell

PHiM Family Picnic

Following the Alzheimer's Walk on September 23, we will be having our annual family picnic at Potawatomi Park. The walk takes only about an hour, so we should be setting up the picnic around 11 AM. It will be in the same location as last year. If you stand in the parking lot facing the zoo entrance, we will be to the right of it. Everyone is asked to bring their own table setting, beverages, and a dish to pass. We have an alcohol permit. (*And there will be hot wings! - ed.*) This is a phun event ... don't miss it!

The Upper Deck

The Upper Deck at Coveleski Stadium is having a fundraiser to benefit Alzheimer's Services of Northern Indiana on September 23. And yes, that is the day of the Alzheimer's Walk and the Family Picnic! The Beach Bum Band will be performing, the drinks will be flowing, and the food will be scrumptious! We will sponsor raffles to raise even more money for Alzheimer's Services. We don't yet know the times/cover charge — watch your e-mail for this important information.

Habitat for Humanity

We need ten to twelve people to volunteer to work nailing, drywalling, and painting at a Habitat for Humanity home from 8:30 am to approximately noon on Saturday, October 14. (*This is not a Notre Dame football weekend! - ed.*) Interested volunteers should contact Karen, who has paperwork for you to fill out. Please consider helping to build a home for a local family that is truly in need.

The Golden Coconut Award (cont'd)

events. The club has entered a float in the county fair parade, entered a river raft in a local city raft race (and won best-overall raft), participated in Alzheimer's and breast cancer walks, held another large tent party, hosted "The Whaleshark" at a local bar for a fundraiser, sent a dozen members to MOTM, and attended many other clubs' events. We have set up a great website which we are very proud of,

with different information and pictures of the events we have been part of.

We have a great core group of members who pitch in to help out on our events. Our monthly "bizness" meetings are generally well-attended, with anywhere from 25 to 35 members present on average. In addition to these monthly meetings, we hold

what we call a "Phirst Phriday Phlocking", where we visit different local restaurants on the first Friday of each month for a strictly social gathering. By continuing to offer a wide variety of both social and charitable events, and trying to appeal to various age groups and interest groups, our parrot head club hopes to continue to spread the message of Jimmy Buffett and his music for years to come.

Phlocking Unplugged

On the weekend of July 19, the Detroit Parrot Head Club had their first annual regional campout at the Timber Trails Campground in Decatur, Michigan. All the area clubs were invited to join them as Decatur was central to the Midwest Clubs. They reserved the entire campground for us to do what we do best...PARTY. Attending from our club were our Prez Jan Caudell and Ron Arturi, and Secretary and Treasurer Lil and Carey Bert. Keets were welcome too, and there was a nice assortment of families of different age groups.

The campground was located on a pretty lake in the woods, or so we heard, since no one from our group ever made it down to the lake. We preferred to instead hang out by the campfire and toast the day and evening with various liquid concoctions. On the first evening, after setting up our sleeping arrangements and greeting our good friends, Dan and Elise Paterek, President of the Detroit club and his lovely wife, we had hot wings and sweet corn by the fire. We were serenaded by our one and only Ron Arturi to a variety of acoustic tunes. His voice got better and better as the evening wore on, and a bottle of Jack Daniels helped his vocal cords lube up. He was joined by John Martin of the Detroit Club. There is nothing in the world like sitting around a campfire on a beautiful summer evening listening to great music. They kept us entertained and

Horoscopes

If you were born in late summer or early autumn, here's your "drinking horoscope":

VIRGO (Aug 23–Sept. 22): Drink style: Cerebral. Virgos are compelled to impose order onto their bender. Their famously fussy quest for purity could lead to drinking less than other signs. They rarely get fully shellacked...but, oh, when they do! Virgo's controlled by the intellect, but there's an unbridled beast lurk-

singing along well after midnight until we were asked by the campground manager to kindly knock it off for the evening. Most of the group then stumbled back to their beds for the night, while others continued their merriment at a somewhat quieter level than before.

Jan and Ron had scoped out the area a few weekends prior to the event and had a special wine tour planned the next day for anyone who cared to join them. They started the tour by having lunch at the Keeler Keg and Kitchen in the famous town of Keeler, MI. The waitress introduced us to a drink recipe of her own, which she was quite proud of, called a "Hillbilly Margarita". The name, or so she said, came about because they are hillbillies. So there you go. It is tequila and Mello Yello. We ordered lunch, and settled in the backyard to play horseshoes and cornhole. If you have never heard of or played the game cornhole, sitting in the backyard of a small bar in the middle of nowhere, I will leave it to your imagination. Service, while quite slow, was also very slow. The food was very, very good and we happily whiled away two hours.

The procession proceeded to the first winery of the extensive tour, Contessa Winery. This was a quite nice, quiet winery which had obviously never encountered a group of parrot heads in their whole life and did not really know what

to think of our group. We bellied up to the wine tasting bar and sampled some really nice wines. The next stop was just down the road, the Chocolate Garden. They sold delicious chocolate truffles which went down very well after a Hillbilly Margarita and a sampling of a few wines.

After a short drive through the Michigan countryside, we next encountered the Karma Vista Winery. This was a fantastic winery, with extremely friendly owners. Not only was the wine very good, but they had witty, funny names and slogans made up from popular sixties and seventies songs. This is highly recommended if you love wine tours, and definitely a place to stop next year. The next and final winery we visited was the Warner Winery in Coloma. This was a lovely winery which wasn't sure if they wanted a group of slightly drunk parrot heads crashing the wedding party in progress. We made our last toast and the group then headed back to the campground for the pot luck supper. Great food and another evening of music around the campfire capped off a fantastic day. New friendships were made and another great parrot head event went into the history books. Hopefully next year attendance will be even larger as everyone tells their fellow members what a great time they had at Phlocking Unplugged.

-Lil Bert

ing within, and they let it loose when walloped. It's dead sexy (and surprisingly unsloppy). As one virgo friend used to declare, "I'm gonna drink myself into a low level of intelligence tonight." A toast to the subgenius IQ!

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct 23): Drinking style: "I'm jusht a social drinker," slurs Libra, "it's jusht that I'm so damn social!" Libra lives nothing more than to party, mingle and relate to everyone. Whether tipped in

favor of Good Libra (with Insta-Friend device set to "on") or heavier on the Evil Libra side (they are little instigators when bored), the Scales can really work a room. Charming as they are, Libras are notoriously lacking in self-control, however, which can get them into all sorts of trouble...including wearing their wobbly boots waaay too early in the evening, flirting with their best friend's beau or even blacking out the night's events entirely. Oops!

PARROT HEADS IN MICHIANA
Summary of Fund Deposits and Withdrawals
May 1, 2006 through July 31, 2006

Beginning Balance 5/1/06

\$ 2,160.74

Deposits:		Expenses:	
Dividends	\$ 2.78	Buns Tent Party expenses	\$ 172.00
Buns Tent Party proceeds	\$ 1,893.00	Donation to Reins of Life	\$ 106.10
Food Drive proceeds	\$ 200.00	Picnic reservation, newsletter copying	\$ 87.74
Buns Giveback Night	\$ 42.41	Donation to Down Syndrome - Tent party	\$ 1,300.00
Merchandise proceeds	\$ 145.00	Donation to Food Bank - Food drive	\$ 200.00
Membership	\$ 19.00	Merchandise purchases	\$ 735.89
Bus trip deposits	\$ 80.00	Trivia Game supplies	\$ 21.50
Concert ticket deposits	\$ 4,053.00	Anaconda t-shirts donations	\$ 151.00
Hacienda Night Breast Cancer proceeds	\$ 205.00	Concert ticket purchases	<u>\$ 4,064.40</u>
Anaconda T-shirt proceeds	\$ 151.00	Total Expenses	<u>\$ 6,838.63</u> \$ (6,838.63)
Reins of Life collections	<u>\$ 106.10</u>		
Total Deposits	<u>\$ 6,897.29</u>	Ending Balance 7/31/06	<u>\$ 2,219.40</u>

Parrot Heads in Michiana
Official Events Calendar
Autumn of Phun

DATE	EVENT	PLACE AND DETAILS	TIME
09/01/06 Friday	Phirst Phriday Phlocking	Century Center Elwood Splinters at Meet Me on the Island	5:30 PM til 8:30 PM
09/17/06 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Between the Buns in Osceola	5:00 PM
9/23/06 Saturday	Alzheimer's Walk	Potawotami Park Walk to benefit the... (I forgot)	To Be Announced
9/23/06 Saturday	Club picnic	Potawotami Park Bring a dish to share and also BYOBTS - clothing optional	After Alzheimer's Walk
9/23/06 Saturday	Buffett Night at the Silverhawks Game	Coveleski Stadium Johnny Russler and the Beach Bum Band performs	Approx 8:00 PM To Be Announced
10/06/06 Friday	Phirst Phriday Phlocking	To Be Announced	7:00 PM
10/13/06 Friday	Empty Bowls Project ***National Parrot Head Hunger Project***	Coveleski Stadium's Upper Deck Fundraiser for Hunger	7:00 PM til approx 11:00 PM
10/15/06 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Between the Buns in Osceola	5:00 PM
11/01/06 Friday	Phirst Phriday Phlocking	To Be Announced	7:00 PM
11/02/06 - 11/05/06	Meeting of the Minds	National Parrot Heads in Paradise convention in Key West, FL http://www.phip.com/MOTM.asp	All day, every day
11/19/06 Sunday	Monthly Bizness Meeting	Between the Buns in Osceola	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 Another "lost weekend" with the Detroit PHC	Friday night through Sunday

All events are PHiM participating except MOTM and Caribbean Blue

Phirst Phriday Phlockings: 1st Friday of each month, location changes so check the website

Monthly Bizness Meetings: 3rd Sunday of each month at Between the Buns Sports Bar in Osceola

Parrot Heads in Michiana

61450 Druid Lane
South Bend, IN 46614



Empty Bowls Project

Our "Empty Bowls Project" will take place on Friday, October 13 at 7pm at the Upper Deck at Coveleski Stadium in South Bend! We owe a HUGE thanks to Sabra Nebus who runs the Upper Deck for being able to donate the space to us for this great evening!

We will be raising money...and LOTS of it...for REAL Services "Senior Nutrition Centers". They, unfortunately, have had their funding severely cut recently, so have had to close some of their nutrition centers in the Michiana area. Not only are these centers incredibly important from a nutrition standpoint...for some of these elderly folks it is the only healthy meal they eat all day...but also from a fellowship standpoint. Many seniors feel isolated and lonely, so coming to these centers serves them in that way, also.

The idea of an Empty Bowl Project is that we serve a soup and bread dinner in handmade ceramic bowls (food safe) and when people leave for the evening, they take their bowls with them as a reminder

that there are folks in our community who don't always have food to fill their bowls. It is a national project and if you want more information about it, go to www.emptybowls.net. We have 160 handmade ceramic bowls already promised to us from Penn High School ceramics students/teachers, we are working on getting other pieces of artwork (artistic ceramic bowls and other original pieces) for the silent auction we will hold that night, we are working on getting a band to donate their services for a couple hours of entertainment after dinner, Panera Bread to donate the bread, and various restaurants to donate the soup. We'll also need publicity and LOTS OF IT!!!

Some of you signed up for various committees at our last monthly bizness meeting on August 20, however, we are going to need lots more of you to help out in various ways. I will be sending out an e-mail very soon to ask for more volunteers...so watch for that.

Parrot Heads in Michiana is sponsoring this event in conjunction with all Parrot Head Clubs across the nation/world who will be holding some type of event during the month of October to recognize World Hunger Day which is on October 16th this year. Just imagine how many people will benefit from over 215 Parrot Head Clubs holding events to fight hunger!? It will be exciting to see what everyone else is going.

Can you tell that I'm excited about this one? We have the potential to have both a memorable and very profitable event on October 13th! So, check your calendar and be watching for an upcoming e-mail asking for you to volunteer to help with this wonderful evening...let's work together to make this one of our best events yet!!!

-Jan Caudell