



parrot poop

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From the President's Perch

Hello all Parrot Heads and welcome to spring! I hope everyone survived winter. The coming weather definitely fits our clothes and we can get back to wearing flip flops. Since the last newsletter, a few successful events were enjoyed by our club members. First was another successful pub crawl engineered by Bob and Marilyn with many carefully planned stops. Our sharply dressed pirates enjoyed food and their favorite beverages with many of the patrons at every location. We were treated extremely well by the staff and ask to please come back again. The day of fun ended at the California Bar and Grill, where Dead Jimmy was playing. The day was just what the doctor ordered after a horrible winter.

One week later was the Phriends for Michael event at Grill Fire Company. It was a well thought-out and carefully planned event by some of our parrot head family members. Though it was not a club-sponsored event, many parrot heads attended to show their love and support for Mike Gaetani. The music was great as was the food and everyone had fun. Congratulations to Michael and to all who were a part of the evening.

The BCPHC golf outing will be June 24th at Chapel Hill and Jimmie G will be hosting the event again this year. With Jimmy and April in charge, you got to believe it will be fun and successful again. Then comes Summer Parrot Daze on July 19th at the Reading Liederkrantz. This would have been on behalf of Berks Junior Achievement, but sadly they closed their doors. Most of all, it is sad for the kids. As is generally true in life, someone benefits from another person's loss. It will be very cool to have Reading Children's Home back as our charity. I believe it will be another successful event for them as we have all seen their enthusiasm and volunteer efforts.

Finally, we will be supporting the Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania with our Cabin Fever Party and they are excited to be our charity. Our Parrot Head Club, along with the charity's volunteers, will make sure 2015 starts as another exciting year of charitable giving.

So I am sure you see that having fun, creating success, and helping our local charities describes your BCPHC perfectly. Thanks for your commitment and dedication!

Proud to be your Prez, *Denny*



2014 Pirate Pub Crawl

Shelley Hamsher

The weather could not have been any more perfect than it was for the 4th Annual Parrot Head Pub Crawl! On April 26th, the pirates and wenches of Berks County gathered at California Bar and Grill in anticipation of the adventure. After the ship on wheels set sail, Captain Marilyn distributed envelopes containing clues about the ports of call. With the blow of the Ptarmigan Whistle (complete with flour), we were ready to embark on our journey and start the party.

Ironically, our first stop was called the Finish Line. After everyone had a good laugh at the interesting names on our name tags, we entered the bar to find a group of people gathered for a wake. They were surprised at the sight of pirates and wenches storming into the building, but quickly became amused and entertained. They even took several pictures with us! Angie found the first puzzle piece, and before we knew it, the captain blew the horn to signal that it was time to go.



Our next port of call was the beautiful St. Peters Village, where we attracted plenty of attention. We had a great time visiting the bakery and exploring the village. The outdoor bar had an amazing view, and for almost two hours we danced to music while enjoying delicious food and drinks. I have a feeling the people of the village won't forget about us any time soon.

We "docked" next at Tim's Ugly Mug. Many of the shipmates among us dared to look inside the giant mug with the mirror in the bottom. The majority of us congregated at the outside bar, where we enjoyed cocktails, fun, and laughter until it was time to set sail again. After leaving Tim's Ugly Mug, we had a short voyage to the Gear Jammers Saloon. Here, many of the pirates enjoyed cigars on the outside deck. Others took advantage of the fantastic food and spirits before boarding our ship for the last time.

Our voyage concluded at our home port, California Bar and Grill. We were provided with wonderful entertainment by Dave Hartranft. Many of the pirates stayed at the bar to indulge in more pirate camaraderie and shenanigans!

This wonderful day would not have been possible without the captains, Marilyn and Bob, who spent months coming up with new and exciting places for us to explore. Thank you for all of your hard work!



Photos courtesy of Marilyn Baertschy and Shelley Hamsher

Hope to see you all at the 2015 Pub Crawl!



Scenes from the Pub Crawl 2014



Photos courtesy of John Martucci

Quick Licks w/ Mike Nash of the

Southern Drawl Band (Part 1) Tracey Lutz



*M*ike Nash leads a diverse group of men who range in age from their early 20's to almost 50. But that diversity brings a sound that is rich and full of life. On May 5th, 2011 Mike and drummer, Larry Dunsmore, started the Southern Drawl Band and they played their first gig for Cinco de Mayo. But the formation of a band is never easy. They have seen members come and go for a variety of reasons, but Mike and the guys really feel like they've found the magical combination. And their sound speaks for itself. They were on stage at Margaritaville during MOTM and they have been asked back because they packed the house. The band is being discovered above the Mason-Dixon Line and their calendar is filling up. Check out their website for their schedule (Southerndrawlband.com). Or if you're heading to MOTM this fall, experience the TropRock/Classic/Southern Rock/Bluegrass/Reggae/

Folk sound and throw in a few unexpected songs for a really good time. (Sorry, I just can't pigeon hole this band with one category!)

PP: You're from Knoxville, but you used to go by the name Nashville Mike. How did that happen?

MN: Nashville Mike was born when I went to Coco Beach in 2006. I grew up playing in Nashville and I never realized that you could make a living playing music. It was the Buffett dream. When I moved to Coco Beach after selling everything I had, my intention was to still work in construction, which is what I had done before. A few nights before July 4th, I was hanging out in a bar, talking with the owner and she asked if I had a guitar with me. I said "Sure, it's in my car." So I played a couple of songs and when I was done, she said, "you've got to come back and play at our July 4th celebration." It was a big party behind the bar. Well, my Nashville thinking was, put a tip jar out and maybe make a few bucks, have a few drinks. After the show was over, she came up and handed me \$350. I told her that that was a really big tip and that she really didn't have to do that. She said, "Honey, this is what we pay our musicians. This is normal."

PP: You didn't know you were being offered a paid gig?

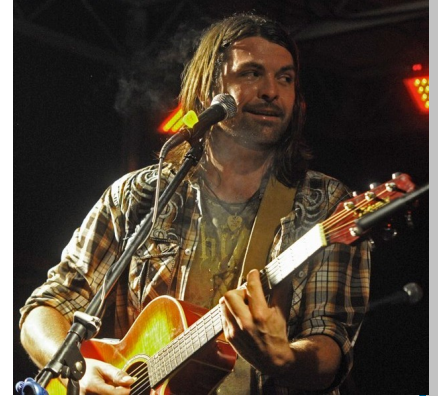
MN: Well, at 31, it never occurred to me that you could get paid to play music at that level. I had been working construction, raising two kids, and this was a totally accidental meeting of the stars. And it made me realize that my Nashville view of the world – "You don't get paid to play music" wasn't the way it really was. Cause everybody plays for free in Nashville, if you don't then there are 20 others waiting to take your spot and they are willing to play for free. They are all trying to make a name and are just happy to have a spot to play. So that was the day I went home and hung up the tool belt, picked up my guitar and I never looked back.

PP: Did it happen that quickly?

MN: Oh yea. She wanted to sign me on to play there and I said "Yea!" She gave me dates and I started playing there every Friday night. Then I started building off of that, getting into other bars in the area. By the time I left in 2010, I was playing around 12 gigs a week. Just solo stuff.

PP: But the name, Nashville Mike. How did that happen?

NM: Well, everybody at the beach has a nickname. There were like ten Mikes in town, and Daves – "Super Dave" and "Painter Dave," so I just became Nashville Mike cause that's where I came from. Actually "Miami Brad" is the one who came up with it. A couple of nights after that first gig, Brad and I were hanging out. It never occurred to me to have a stage name. I thought it had a nice ring to it. So I became Nashville Mike.

**PP: Were you playing country music at the time?**

MN: No. I was playing Buffett and what was considered tourist music. I didn't do a whole lot of country. But because of the stage name everybody thought that's what I did and I was getting a lot of requests for country songs. Even though I had grown up in Nashville, I had never played country that much and I had to learn the songs.

PP: How did you get to Knoxville, Tennessee?

MN: In 2010, my dad got sick and we moved back to where my parents were living. It was pretty quick. We lost him to Multiple Myeloma (cancer of the blood). It was a huge turning point in my life.

PP: How old are your kids now and has it been difficult to balance it all?

MN: My son is almost seventeen and just went to his first prom and my daughter is almost eleven. I did the family thing in my 20's and then tried again in my 30's. But I really feel like my life then has set me up for my life now. Everything I've done along the way I feel were the right choices for me then. I'm still best friends with my first wife and my second wife. I could not do what I do without the support of friends and family.

**PP: How do your kids perceive you?**

MN: They think I'm a superstar (with a hearty laugh). They think it's the coolest thing in the world, and they brag to their friends. That Rocky Top video that was played on the Jumbotron at Neyland Stadium (commissioned by the University of Tennessee and may be seen on Youtube) really gave us a jump start and elevated our "cool" status with my kids. It made us seem a lot bigger than we really are – we're not the Zac Brown Band.

PP: Was it a conscious thought to move away from hometown shows?

NM: Yep. Everything I've done has been planned. I used Knoxville as a petri dish. Trying out different things, learned how to get to radio guys and the whole PR side of the business. I learned how to build a following through social media. We wouldn't be anywhere if it wasn't for Facebook. I really believe that. So many careers, including A-listers, got there through social media.

(LOOK FOR PART 2 IN OUR NEXT ISSUE)

Belly Up! My Favorite Tiki Bar

Jerry Standefer

Our readers won't have to travel far to find our next "Favorite Tiki Bar." Get in your car, invite yourself over to Jerry's house (I'm sure he won't mind), and pull up a seat. Until you can do that, enjoy Jerry's article all about "The Joy of Owning Your Own Backyard Tiki Bar."



Many years ago Susan and I were on a Caribbean cruise and while

on Labadee Island in the country of Haiti, I encountered my first tiki bar. I'll never forget it—sitting at this wonderful island bar that was covered with a thatched roof made from palm tree prawns, as we watched a pair of iguanas climbing the post that supported the tiki bar. That's when I started day dreaming about owning my own island paradise. I told myself, I can build one of these! Not saying anything to my wife about my thoughts, I etched into my mind what I would do when we returned home.

To make a long story short, I met a carpenter from a suburb of Philadelphia named "Tiki Kev" who specialized in custom deck building. The same thing had happened to him, only being a carpenter by trade

he realized the income potential of building tiki bars for people. You might have come across one of his creations if you have ever tailgated at an Eagles game. He pulls a green-colored tiki bar on a trailer to the pre-game festivities! Kev no longer builds decks because he has become the number one tiki bar builder in the United States. He told me that with any basic skills I could build my own tiki bar. So, I bought a set of plans from him and that set me on my way to building my own tiki bar.

First I gathered all the material I needed, and what I couldn't buy from the local home store I bought from him. He stocked white cedar logs and palm prawns for the roof thatching. You should have seen the look on Susan's face when I unloaded the white cedar logs that were in eight foot lengths. It took four of my neighbors to help me lift the roof structure on top of my bar. They all have been rewarded by sitting at tiki bar sipping their favorite cocktail.



(continued p. 9)

Spring Highway Cleanup

Lou Mancano



I enjoy a good conspiracy theory. This one probably

won't rank up there with some of the all-time greats, such as "Did Lee Harvey Oswald act alone?", or "Did Elvis stage his own death?", or "Was Princess Diana actually assassinated?, or even "Was the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing a hoax?" However, the question remains. How did that one mile stretch of Route 222 become as trash-laden as it did? Some might blame it on Old Man Winter, but things didn't seem to add up. I was determined to find out why!

The day began in its usual unsuspecting way with the Berks County Parrot Head Club meeting and caravanning as we

do every six months to clean our stretch of highway. Each time, the litterers of the world have the same number of months to misbehave and trash our road. It follows, then, that litter amounts should be similar each time we clean up. But not this time!

To a person, all fourteen highway cleaner-uppers were aghast over twice the usual amount of trash. To a person, each had never seen the roadside quite so filthy. This got me thinking. Were we set up? Was someone trying to break the backs of these environmentally conscious Parrot Heads? Could this be yet another conspiracy and cover up to the proportions of Malaysian Flight 370? Or the recent IRS scandal? Or the secrets of military Area 51? Was the trash Intentionally placed, and who was responsible? And, of course, who was involved in the cover up? So many questions; so few answers.



After working to clean it up, it was time to begin the real investigative work. Could trash have been moved from one highway cleanup site to ours? I scoured the internet looking for clues, trying to find which groups owned nearby stretches of road. Could one of them have emptied their trash bags onto our roadsides? Adoptahighway.com provided no detailed information, clearly suppressing valuable information and incriminating evidence. I moved on.

Next I put on my detective hat. I had always heard that when solving a mystery, look for the familiar, the people who know the crime victims. Perhaps someone close to the Club, perhaps a member, or better yet, even one cleaning the highway might have returned to the crime scene to cover up their involvement. Could clues have been left on the roadside? I examined the evidence. Among the many bottles, cans, cardboard, plastic bags, and tire fragments, I found two prescription bottles of Medical Cannabis, both labels marked from California with the physician's name scratched off. Is a doctor involved? Could it be Dave Nathan protesting the ACA? Hmmm. Who might have written these prescriptions? Wait – I was in California in February. Gulp! But there's more. Mary Ann found a cell phone, a little wet, but still in good enough shape for the now infamous NSA to inspect its data base for important clues. Yes, Mary Ann had called me while I was in San Francisco. Was this the phone she used? I might be onto something. Then came clue number three - a pair of women's shoes. They looked about Mary Ann's size, but certainly not her style. An obvious diversion to throw me off track. Then I found a mirror and took a long hard look into it. Oh my God!!! Keep it to yourselves, or maybe you should call Paul and Collette Smith, but I might have figured out the crime of the century!



Trivia : Are Clubs Your Strong Suit?

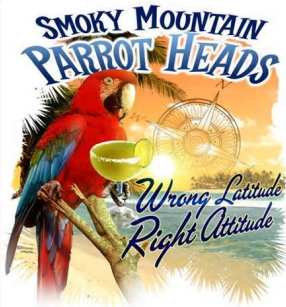
Lou Mancano



The first Parrot Head Club was organized in 1989. Since then,

the Parrot Head craze has spread across the globe. Here are some questions to test your knowledge about your fellow clubs that belong to Parrot Heads in Paradise (PHiP).

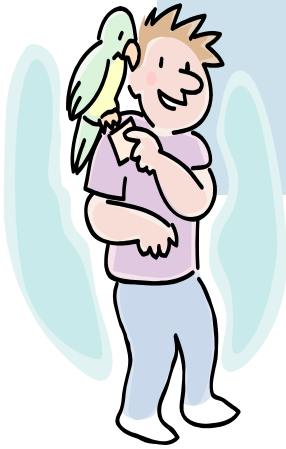
1. Presently, in 2014, how many Parrot Head Clubs exist?
 - A. 184
 - B. 219
 - C. 231
 - D. 306
2. Which state stakes claim to the greatest number of Parrot Head clubs?
 - A. Virginia
 - B. Florida
 - C. Texas
 - D. Alabama
3. Which city organized the first Parrot Head club?
 - A. Biloxi, MS
 - B. Gulf Shores, AL
 - C. Key West, FL
 - D. Atlanta, GA
4. All of these Pennsylvania cities have a Parrot Head club EXCEPT which one?
 - A. Scranton
 - B. Harrisburg
 - C. Philadelphia
 - D. Pittsburgh
5. Currently, "Meeting of the Minds" is held each year in Key West. What was the first year that the event was held?
 - A. 1990
 - B. 1992
 - C. 1994
 - D. 1996
6. Which city hosted The First Annual Parrot Head Convention, also known as "Meeting of the Minds"?
 - A. Tampa, FL
 - B. Key West, FL
 - C. Birmingham, AL
 - D. New Orleans, LA
7. How much money was raised and donated at the first MOTM event?
 - A. \$200
 - B. \$2,00
 - C. \$20,000
 - D. \$200,000
8. When was Parrot Heads in Paradise incorporated?
 - A. 1990
 - B. 1993
 - C. 1996
 - D. 1999
9. What year did Jimmy Buffett first attend "Meeting of the Minds"?
 - A. 1994
 - B. 1998
 - C. 2008
 - D. 2012
10. All of the following are home to at least one Parrot Head club EXCEPT which one?
 - A. Canada
 - B. Australia
 - C. Puerto Rico
 - D. Mexico



Scoring :

9-10 A well-organized mind! 7-8 Life-time membership 5-6 Time to pay your dues <5 You've violated the bylaws

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 11)



Phledgling Phlockers: Welcome to the Club!!!



Jean Maurer



Ken and Denise Schnader



Eric and Jennifer Noecker



Elaine Meinhart

My favorite tiki bar *(cont. from p.5)*



It gives Susan and me personal satisfaction knowing that when we wish we were in the Caribbean we can relax by the pool enjoying our own backyard paradise. We turn up the built in stereo with Jimmy Buffett or Jimmy and the Parrots music playing in the back ground while relaxing by the bar. People are always amazed when they ask me where I got the tiki bar and I tell them that I built it myself. Just one of the joys of owning your own tiki bar. Many of our parrot head friends have come to our parties to witness the excitement and fun we have relaxing in the pool and sitting at the tiki bar.



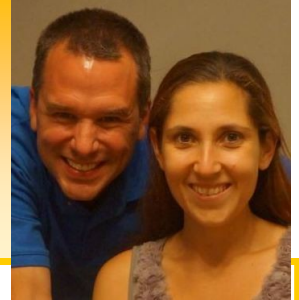
Did you know??.....that the club maintains an archive of minutes, photos, and artifacts that date back to June, 2003. You can submit a research request to the archival staff at any time. We might just find an answer to your question!

If you have any early club materials, especially from 2002 and 2003, please consider lending them to the Archives. The materials can be digitized for storage and the originals returned to you.



Strange Birds

featuring Matt Rowe and Patti Mallozzi



Our strange birds for this issue reside in Douglassville, along with Marina and Alex Rowe, two dogs, one cat, and many plants. Matt was born in Champaign, Illinois and still considers Chicago his home town. Following a move to NJ with his parents, Matt attended West Chester University. Presently, he is involved in medical sales, specializing in oncology diagnostics and pathology. Patti majored in Biology in college and has been a teacher for the last twelve years. Having gotten her Master's degree and Reading Specialist certificate, she is now teaching third grade in the Boyertown District. This summer, she will travel to China where she will teach English.

Some fun facts about Matt and Patti:

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song : Matt: *Growing Older But Not Up. This song reminds me of the road we all travel.* Patti : *Trip Around the Sun. It's the first song I learned the line dance for!*

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song line: Matt: *Breath in, breathe out, move on...* Patti : *I'd rather die while I'm living than live while I'm dead.*

Favorite place to be while listening to tropic music: Matt: *Anywhere that there is water---Pool, lake , beach.* Patti: *Anywhere with Matt, though preferably somewhere warm and sandy.*

How many concerts have you been to and was one more memorable than the others?: Matt: *About 25; the most memorable being in Key West where it all began.* Patti: *Unfortunately only 4. Of the ones I have been to, Pittsburgh was my favorite.*

If all your Buffett music was lost or stolen, what would you listen to?: Matt: *It would really depend on my mood. Most likely Bob Marley, Bruce Springsteen or The Beatles.* Patti: *Country and Dave Matthews Band.*

Favorite coral reefer, other than Jimmy: Matt and Patti: *Mac McAnally*

Favorite food: Matt: *A great prime rib—medium rare with a slab of garlic butter.* Patti: *Anything Indian!*

Favorite movie: Matt: *The Usual Suspects* Patti : *Vanilla Sky*

Favorite restaurant: Matt: *Being a foodie I don't even know where to begin...Maybe Amada in Philadelphia.* Patti: *Amada*

Drink of choice: Matt: *Rum & Coke* Patti: *Red Wine*

How did you get involved in the BCPHC?: Matt: *It is thanks to Patti and her knowing of my love for Buffett that she found the club and got us involved. I believe our first event was the very first pub crawl.* Patti : *Looking for something fun to do with Matt. Music and drinking are our common interests and I love community service!*

What's on your bucket list? Matt: *Take a Windjammer type of cruise of the Caribbean stopping at many of the smaller islands.* Patti: *Drive across country. Have to see Mt. Rushmore on the way!*

Any insights or inspirations to pass on?: Matt: *Life is too short not to be happy. So, find what makes you happy and embrace it.* Patti: *Surround yourself with people who make you a better you.*

Where the heck is Margaritaville?: Matt: *For me, Margaritaville is the happiness and love I find at home, at the lake house, and in the time spent with my family and friends. My kids are the most important thing to me and to be able watch them grow up, interact and love each other the way they do makes me feel complete, happy and at peace!*

There's More Trouble on the Horizon!!

Upcoming Summer Events!



<i>Happy Hour</i>	<i>Railroad House</i>	<i>June 19</i>
<i>Golf Outing</i>	<i>Chapel Hill Golf Course</i>	<i>June 28</i>
<i>Parrot Daze Party</i>	<i>Reading Liederkrantz</i>	<i>July 19</i>
<u>Buffett Concerts:</u>		
<i>Mansfield Mass.</i>		<i>July 19</i>
<i>Pittsburgh</i>		<i>July 23</i>
<i>Camden</i>		<i>Aug.19</i>

Committee Updates

In 25 words (more) or less

Stars on the Water (Volunteers Committee) - Scott Kauffman *“Thank You” to everyone that volunteered during our Spring Highway Clean-up. Our next event where volunteers are needed is our Summer Parrot Daze in July. Please complete the Sign-up forms at our monthly meetings or email me if you are interested in helping.*

Parrot Poop (Newsletter Committee) - Rich Leiby *As always, we welcome ideas for new articles and submissions from the membership. Email Rich if you are interested.*

Pfeeding Pfrenzy (Merchandise Committee) - Tina Shenk *All the auction items at Parrot Daze are amazing this year! Please bid and help us raise lots of \$\$\$ for our charity.*

Changes in Attitude (Charity Committee) - Gary Kraft *We're looking forward to working hard for our 2014 Summer Daze charity—Children's Home of Reading, and for our 2015 Cabin Fever charity—Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania.*

If the Phone Doesn't Ring (Membership Committee) - Susan Standefer *We now have 196 members and our committee has four new members. Volunteers are needed to be greeters at the meetings and mentors for new members.*

We aren't famous—yet (Marketing Committee) Debbie Hartranft *We are currently planning for Parrot Daze. Posters are printed and are being placed throughout the community. A Scavenger Hunt for The Lost Shaker of Salt is being planned for the event! Stay tuned for more information!!!!*

1. C 2. B 3. D 4. A 5. B 6. D 7. A 8. C 9. B 10. D

Answers to this issue's trivia quiz

.....and just a few final words.



is a publication of the Berks County Parrot Head Club, a non-profit organization based in Reading, Pennsylvania. The club's mission is to promote friendship and organize social activities for people who share a tropical spirit, an affection for island music, and the desire to contribute to the betterment of the community through a variety of volunteer and charitable efforts and functions.

The BCPHC was chartered in 2002 and is affiliated with Parrot Heads in Paradise, the national organization governing all Parrot Head clubs across the United States.

This publication is produced by the staff of the club's newsletter committee solely as a vehicle to exchange information about club activities and social events. Any opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors alone and not necessarily those of the BCPHC or its leadership. The images, articles, and graphics in this newsletter are the property of the BCPHC and may not be reproduced in any way without the permission of the club leadership.

Anyone who wishes to help further the mission of the organization is invited to join and participate. More information can be found on the club website, located at

<http://www.berkscountyphc.org>



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