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Parrot Poop Scoop

HELLO from the Prez



On October 1st our Berks County Parrot Head Club was four years old. Where did the time go? As your Founder and President, I could not be more proud of the unique and special Birds we have in this nest.

We have accomplished so many things in four short years. The charities we have supported and the events we put together to raise money bring back so many special memories to me. I can still visualize the Grill family and the tears in their eyes when we raised money to send them to Disney World for Christmas. How about the way the people go crazy when the Marines walk into 3rd and Spruce for the Toys for Tots party?

Every time I go to the Fish Pond I see in my mind all those people enjoying the great bands and the camaraderie with other Parrot Heads. And I think every member has their own memory of the Crime Alert fundraising party. The highway cleanup brings something new and unusual each time. This year it was a Jimmy Buffett CD! I will always remember that because who would throw away a Buffett CD?

Please check out the King Frost parade float photos in this issue. We had a blast and

in my opinion, had the best looking float there. A lot of hard work went into the construction and design of this float and everyone's efforts are appreciated and worth it.

By the time you read this, I will have been elected President for another term. I thank you all for your support and most of all your time and effort to make your Club better. My position is made so easy with all of the help from you.

We have two great charities to support in 2007 - Opportunity House and Crime Alert. I am excited about helping both of these great organizations. We have plenty of work to do and we have the right group of birds to accomplish anything. I am looking forward to being your leader in 2007 as we create more memories.

I hope as you read this article, you have the same feeling of joy and happiness I have because we have made some people happy and have made Berks County a better place.

I LOVE THIS CLUB AND ALL OF YOU WONDERFUL PEOPLE.



GROWING OLDER BUT NOT UP

A Client Story

The road to recovery is never easy. The road to independence and maturity is a difficult battle for many. The road to knowing how to take care of yourself and take care of a child can be the most challenging road of all.

Savannah has been down these roads and with the support of Opportunity House, her caseworkers, her doctors, and her 19 month daughter, she is making her way. Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Savannah was raised by her grandparents from infancy. She moved to Pennsylvania in 2000 to stay with her father and stepmother but faced a difficult home life. To escape from a family life she could no longer tolerate, she moved in with a friend. When those arrangements fell apart in 2004, she turned to Opportunity House.

Savannah graduated from high school while she was at The Shelter. After graduation, she stayed with any friend who had room in order to be on her own. For two months Savannah was in and out of The Shelter as she unsuccessfully tried to make it on her own. In August of 2004, she returned to The Shelter but became pregnant shortly thereafter. Diagnosed with bipolar disorder, Savannah had enough trouble taking care of herself without having the added responsibility of a child.

Her daughter, Kelly, was born in April 2005. Remembering the pain that she felt from a mother who abandoned her, she was determined to make a better life for her daughter by learning to take care of herself. This past August, Savannah and Kelly were able to leave the women's dorm at The Shelter and move to one of our transitional housing units across the street from Opportunity House. Soon, Savannah will enroll in classes through OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) for additional training in which she hopes to eventually get a job working with animals. She knows she can pursue an education and Kelly will be taken care of at the Second Street Learning Center.

Savannah has worked very hard to get her life together, but she cannot do it all by herself. She still has more to accomplish. It takes time and money to unravel the problems that face many of our homeless neighbors in our community.

The fundraising dollars raised at the Cabin Fever Festival will go toward helping someone like Savannah achieve the independence and self-sufficiency they so earnestly desire. This change not only helps Savannah, but hopefully passes onto Kelly who some day will become an independent and contributing member of our community as well.

2007 Cabin Fever Festival

Helping to build a better community one cheeseburger at a time.

We are excited to have found a new location for the Cabin Fever Festival! Location: Reading Country Club-ballroom

Date: Sunday, January 28, 2007

Time: 1-6:00 p.m.

And we are more excited about our Cabin Fever Festival charity - Opportunity House.



You may know this local non-profit better as The Reading-Berks Emergency Shelter. The name change was made because they have evolved into more then just a shelter providing a bed and meals. Opportunity House (OH) is located at 430 N. Second Street in Reading and serves residents of Berks County. Their goal is to help families and adults become and remain independent members of our community.

Did you know that 42% of homeless people are children under the age of six? By providing housing and supportive services, OH is working to deplete Berks County's homeless population. In the last decade, OH has helped 90% of their homeless families and 80% of single adults who participated in their programs for at least 90 days, successfully move back into the community with an income and housing.

The days of simply offering a bed under a safe roof and a warm meal ended in the 1990's. The staff at OH now focuses on many of the reasons why their "guests" find it difficult to become and remain self-sufficient. OH also provides programs for Berks County residents who may have a place to live, but need a helping hand. OH programs include:

- Second Street Learning Center to help support parents who work with a 24-hour a day, 7 days a week childcare center. OH provides care for 300 children per week infants through school-age including special needs children. They have transportation to and from all elementary and middle schools in Reading. (Note to Parrot Heads isn't this reason enough to open your wallets at Cabin Fever?!)
 - Transitional and permanent housing
- Job Quest / STRIVE-a tuition-free, job-readiness and placement program helping OH guests and other community members overcome barriers to employment.
- Bridges a program to educate, motivate and challenge young OH guests and local Berks residents to become community leaders and build a backbone for the future of OH. (Note to Parrot Heads open your wallet wider.)
- Children's Alliance Center the newest OH program offering a child-friendly environment providing professional services to help children and their families cope with the impact of sexual abuse. (Okay Parrot Heads bring a couple of friends and open their wallets, too.)

Opportunity House helps to teach that independent, responsible living is available to all ... and not just a dream. You can help change the lives of local people in-need in our community by supporting Opportunity House efforts. Learn more by visiting www.opphouse.org.

To find out details about our Cabin Fever Festival, you can attend a monthly general meeting or visit our Web site ww.BerksCountyPHC.org.



Buffett Concert 2006

~ by Denny Lorah

On August 1st a bus load of Berks County Parrot Heads headed for the Tweeter Center to see Jimmy, the biggest Parrot Head of all. We loaded the bus with all of our Party with a Purpose items and we looked like Gypsies in the Palace. There was not a spot left to add anything. Even though it was only noon, we knew it was 5 o'clock somewhere so we started the party immediately.



Arriving in Camden, it was Tuesday on the Island and we found our One Particular Harbour and tied up to a piling along the river. We didn't have a Tin Cup Chalice but the Coronas and the margaritas had us wasting away in 3/4 time. The weather was hot, hot, hot but it suited our clothes. No one was any cooler then our own Berks County Parrot Heads. Thanks to the Gentry's and their Party Grill, I was making Cheeseburgers in Paradise and every bird found a perch to enjoy the meal.

The only thing missing were the Songs You Know by Heart. Havana Buda quickly broke out the guitars and had every bird chirping along to Buffett music. Brian was making ice cream drinks and before you know, it was time to head for the show.

It was another great performance by Jimmy and the band which made us all happy. For a day we had A License to Chill. I can't think of a better way to spend a Tuesday.



~ by Diane Renninger

"You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout I'm telling you why. The Parrot Head Club is coming to town." 'Tis the season for one of the Club's most cherished events. On Friday, December 8th we will host our Annual Toys for Tots Christmas Happy Hour from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Third and Spruce Café.

If you need something to put you in the Christmas spirit, what better way then to donate a toy to a child who may not otherwise enjoy a gift on Christmas morning? In the past, this event has been highlighted by the attendance of several local marines who remind us of the gift that they give to us every day.....the gift of freedom. We have enjoyed their friendship and spirit for the past several years. Many of "our men" are currently serving our country in Iraq and will not be able to attend. We will miss them but we'll make them proud by making this year's event better than ever.

So please mark you calendars and bring a toy or monetary donation to Third & Spruce to join us for a truly magical evening.

Parrot Daze Recap

~ by Chuck Dugan

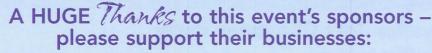


Our 2006 Parrot Daze event on Saturday, July 15th was held to benefit Reading **Public** Museum. One of our own pflock members, John Woodward, is 2nd Vice Chairman for the Museum, and provided a lot of support for the event.

John is the owner of our official meeting place, the 3rd and Spruce Café. The number of partygoers was down from past events, and that was probably due to the poor (hot, hot, hot) weather. But those of us who did attend enjoyed the great music from "Jimmy and the Parrots" and "The John Frinzi Band".

The event may not have been quite what we were hoping for, but the amount raised was still an impressive \$12,000. Great job everyone! Once again, the committees and all the volunteers deserve our thanks for the time and effort they provided to make Parrot Daze IV another memorable event.





Major Sponsor: 3rd & Spruce Café

Gold Sponsor:

Silver Sponsor:

Designing Women

Please support our terrific sponsors who helped make this event a success:







The "Parrot Poop" asked the membership to review Buffett's new album, "Take the Weather With You" from Mailboat Records. In true Parrot Head fashion, we received two responses – Whoop de do.

Since I usually listen to Radio
Margaritaville at work all day, I felt like I
knew many of the songs long before the
CD came out. I especially like "Bama
Breeze"...it's just such a laid back tune.
A funny side note...I found the CD at
Target in the Country section of the
music department. I thought that was
interesting. Will we see Jimmy on the
Country Music Awards?
~ Judi Blimline

Buffett's back to some great work! Really good, some of the songs have the island beat we all love. One of my favorites, "Breath in, Breath out, Move on". Something we all need to remember sometimes when things are out of our control!

~ Jodi Blatt

Where Does the Cheeseburger in Paradise Come From?

The myth of the cheeseburger in paradise goes back to a long trip on Jimmy's first boat, the Euphoria. The Euphoria had run into some very rough weather crossing the Mona Passage between Hispaniola and Puerto Rico and broke its bow sprit. The ice in their box had melted, and the crew was doing the canned-food-and-peanutbutter diet. The vision of a piping hot cheeseburger kept popping into Jimmy's mind. They limped up the Sir Francis Drake Channel and into Roadtown on the island of Tortola. where a brand-new marina and bar sat on the end of the dock, like a mirage.

"The overdone burgers on the burned, toasted buns tasted like manna from heaven, for they were the realization of my fantasy burgers on the trip," Buffett recalls.

Eleaning up our Community

~ by Brandy Lorah

Our fall Environmental Event was held on Sunday, October 22, 2006. Thanks so much to our wonderful group of volunteers who came out to help clean up our Berks County Parrot Head Club section of highway. The clean-up part of the day took about an hour, and then we adjourned to Applebee's for cocktails and conversation.

Congratulations to Jeff Blatt, our latest "most unusual item found" winner. Jeff picked up several discarded CDs along the highway, including half of a Jimmy Buffett disc! The CD has been rescued and will become a permanent part of our trophy collection.

The next Highway Clean-up will be in April 2007. We can always use extra help and would love to see some new faces!







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lew-Membership List

Welcome new members of the pflock and thanks to the referrers! Remember – referring new members is worth 5 Parrot Points!

New Member

Zachery Blatt
Greg & Michele Fetter
and Melissa Kepple
Don & Kim Mace
Blair & Adrienne Newsham

Eric & Melissa Spang Al & Teresa Steuer

Coral Referrer

Mom & Dad Blatt

Tina Shenk
Tina Shenk
Internet
Rejoining the pflock
Dot McGlinn Imbody

Did you move to a new cage? If you need to make changes to your mailing or email information, please contact the membership committee.



Sue Gromis

In order to get to better know our executive committee and committee heads, we dish the dirt on them.

This "coastal confession" is from our "If the Phone Doesn't Ring" membership chair-grandma, Sue Gromis.

Sue was born in Philadelphia – a "Navy brat." She currently resides in Exeter Township. She is married to "her wonderful hubby of 30 years this month, Rick!" They have a daughter, Melissa, a son, Tim, and one granddaughter, Macy. (Just in case Sue hasn't told you before, she has a granddaughter!)

It's my job: Macy's full-time babysitter - and it's GREAT!

But I'd prefer my occupation to be: (only if I HAD to work) I would own a bookstore at the beach – it doesn't matter which beach.

Your very first job: Arby's - remember the big cowboy hat building on 5th St. Highway?!

Interests/hobbies (other than listening to JB): I'm a voracious reader (I live at the Bookmobile), and I've been studying American Sign Language for the past eight years.

Where will you go when the Volcano blows: I'm gonna go where it's WARM!

Favorite JB song: Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Favorite line from a JB song: "I'm growing older, but not up" ... "I'd rather die while I'm livin' then live while I'm dead."

How long have you listened to JB: Believe it or not, only the past four years.

How many JB concerts have you been to & are any more memorable than others: Three – the last one is always the best.

Have you read any of JB's books and if so, which was your favorite?: Yes, but JB should stick to writing music (sorry Jimmy).

If all your Buffett music was lost or stolen, who would you listen to?: Celtic music artists such as Gaelic Storm, Leahy, and Boys of the Lough; The Bacon Brothers; or Toby Keith, Kenny Chesney, Montgomery Gentry.

Favorite food: Hot steamed crabs with Old Bay seasoning

Favorite movie: Romantic – "Gone with the Wind", Comedy – "Weekend at Bernie's", Drama – "The Godfather (Part I)". But I also like "Office Space", "Princess Bride", "The Blues Brothers", and "Back to the Future".

Favorite restaurant: Ruth's Chris Steakhouse

What do you like on your cheeseburger in paradise?: Ketchup, mustard, onion & lots of cheese; must have hot (right from the fryer), crispy fries and good dill pickles.

Favorite frozen (or unfrozen) concoction: Frozen Nutty Irishman – Bailey's Irish Cream and Frangelica, blended with ice and vanilla ice cream, topped with chocolate and whipped cream. YUM!

Most embarrassing moment: There are so many ...

How did you get involved in the BCPHC?: When Berkshire Bank was still in the organizing stage, Rick, Norm and Denny spent a lot of time together. So it just was a natural progression.

What one thing would you like to do in life that you haven't already done?: I have never learned to dance.

What is the one thing you know for sure: I will never be stalked by photographers or autograph seekers.

Where the heck is Margaritaville?: It's at one particular harbour, way in the near future and southeast of disorder.

Yo-ho-ho!!!

The making of our award-winning King Frost parade float

~ by Marilyn Baertschy

The early question our Club's float committee was asking was, "what could we do for the Hamburg Jaycees' King Frost parade that could compare to our signature float from two years ago and last year's Reading Christmas parade?" Ahoy and Arrrr! A Pirate Ship for me Parrot Heads!

The scavenging for a trailer, wood, and parts for our 2006 King Frost parade entry began in May. Bob Baertschy and Ed Kenney were able to locate a 70' x 16' house trailer that was being demolished by Kobra Demolition for scrap metal. Bob and Ed quickly became demolition experts. After removing the wooden house frame, they cut eight feet of steel off the sides of the trailer and then towed the 70' x 8' trailer home in the dead of night.

The trailer was further downsized to 40' x 8'. The excess steel was welded to reinforce the floor. Bob, Ed, Billy Lutz, and Bob Beissel ground and sanded the entire steel structure and painted it black. Bob and Ed located skid boards to make the frame for our float. Larry Kirk, Kris Johnson, Barry Sangrey, Bob, and Ed pounded out three large coffee cans of rusty nails to separate the wood into piles for future uses.

Tim Gromis (Rick and Sue's son) from 84 Lumber Company donated the wood for the decking. The boys bolted it down and painted it. They then fashioned our pirate ship according to plans drafted by Ed. Larry was our technical advisor, knowing the names and parts of our non-sailing vessel. Wood that was salvaged from the skids was shaped into railings, bow sprits, and stairs. Mast and sails were made from found treasures (meaning: garbage picking and dumpster-diving).

Our committee members were Bob and Marilyn Baertschy, Ed Kenney, Billy Lutz, Bob and Brenda Beissel, Larry Kirk, Kris Johnson, and Barry Sangrey. Bob B. was our master electrician, setting up all the lights and electric brakes. Brenda made our banners. Marilyn kept the crew fed and hydrated. Many Club members worked behind the scenes to support us and as the 11th hour drew near, offered a hand to keep our ship from sinking. Jeff Blatt helped with the wiring of our small trailer while Jodi painted. Bob Rhodes, Gary Kraft and Denny Lorah came aboard to get our float afloat. Tina Shenk provided flip-flops and candy to be handed out. Diane and Norm Heilenman, Rick and Sue Gromis, Bonnie Kraft, Scott and Lois Kissinger, Holly and Jim Christman, Karla and Jim Baertschy, Nick Blatt, Jan and Gary Kraft, and Sue Kirk all helped with last minute decorating, carrying our banner, and handing out treats.

It was a dark and stormy night when our jollyboat and all swashbuckling deck hands ventured north to Hamburg dressed as pirates and wenches to participate in the parade and honor our Club. Shiver me timbers! Our hard work was not fed to the fish as our ship won the first place overall prize! Our treasure chest was awarded a \$500 booty.





We thank all the people who donated time and items:

- Kobra Demolition for trailer and axles
- Scott and Lois Kissinger for four tires
- Sandy and Rick Klahr for one tire
- Mark and Mike Galyano from Optimum Control Corporation for the cannons and motors for the birds
- Mike Beissel (Bob's son) for towing the trailer
- Karla Baertschy for labels for handouts
- Tim Gromis from 84 Lumber Company for the wood
- Pig Pen's place for an area to setup our trailer before the parade

We especially want to thank you, our Club, for the generous monetary donation to bring this project to completion. We were almost moved to tears by this kindness. It made us all proud to be part of such a generous group of people. We strove to work hard to make you all proud of us too.

As overwhelmed as we were by your generosity, we can only imagine how the charities that we work so hard to



Club Tax Status

~ by Ruthann Woll, CPA

The Berks County Parrot Head Club received their tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service on April 6, 2006. We are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. A 501(c)(4) organization is generally known as a social welfare organization that is engaged in the promotion of the common good and general welfare of those in the community.

Most charitable organizations that we are aware of, such as the American Cancer Society and Opportunity House, are exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The main difference between a 501(c)(4) organization and a 501(c)(3) organization is that contributions to a 501(c)(4) organization are not deductible by the donor. Although this may seem like a disadvantage for our organization, many businesses that donate to our organization can find ways to still deduct their sponsorship to us. Businesses that are considering sponsoring our events should consult their tax advisors for information on this. Individuals who would like to make a tax-deductible donation to our events can write their checks directly to the charity for which our event is raising money.

We did initially apply to the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3); however, they ruled that we did not qualify because we did not operate exclusively as a charitable organization. Basically we have too much fun for the IRS since we have birthday parties, happy hours, and do other events as a Club.

As we continue to "party with a purpose", please keep in mind our tax exempt status. If you have any questions along the way, please feel free to contact me.



In 25 Words or Less Committee Updates:



If the Phone Doesn't Ring (membership committee) -chairperson Sue Gromis

Don't Pflee the Pflock and don't let this issue of "Parrot Poop" be your last! October began our renewal drive, so if you haven't sent in your dues for 2007, please send a check or money order today, along with your name, address, phone number and email address, and any other info that may have changed since your last application was submitted. Dues remain \$25/couple and \$20/single, with additional family members under 18 years \$5/each. Hope to see everyone back for one more trip around the sun!

Stars on the Water (volunteer committee) - chairperson Diane Heilenman

The Volunteer Committee is gearing up for the Cabin Fever Festival. Emails for volunteers will start going out in January 2007. Also, I will be stepping down from my Volunteer Chairperson position at the end of 2006. If anyone is interested or has questions, email me at normandi@earthlink.net. It's an important committee and thanks to all my volunteers who have helped me through the years. Volunteerism is what Parrot Heads are all about.

We Need More Junior Mints (sponsorship committee) - chairperson Norm Heilenman

The Winter Cabin Fever Event will be here before you know it! Calling all Sponsors & Advertisers. Don't miss this opportunity to support a great cause and to promote your company. Contact BCPHC or any Sponsorship Committee member for details.

Parrot Poop (newsletter committee) - chairperson Dot McGlinn Imbody

We've recently had several non-committee members submitting information, articles and photos to the newsletter. Thank you. You too can tell us some juicy news – we don't see it all. And you'll earn Parrot Points for doing so! Anything fit to print is appreciated.

Pfeeding Pfrenzy (merchandise committee) - chairperson Tina Shenk

Shopping time is here!! We have lots of goodies to fill those wish lists. As the new year approaches, make your New Year's Resolution to be more involved ~ take time and join our committee! We meet monthly on the 2nd Monday of each month. This is a great way to be part of something special.

Party With a Purpose (events committee) - chairperson Jodi Blatt

The Party With a Purpose committee is working feverishly to secure dates for next years events! We will have all the same ones plus we are hoping to add a Casino Night. The one we sponsored for Kiss-a-pig was sooo much fun. We are looking to do one in the dead of winter in March, keep your calendar open. Remember our events are only as successful as the people who attend, come and bring your friends!

Changes in Attitude (charity committee) – chairperson Gary Kraft No report.

To all BCPHC Parrot Heads:

Your membership will need to be renewed this fall.

Our membership count is how we are granted tickets for concerts so it's very important that you renew on time. Current members and new applicants can find a membership application on our Web site under "You too can be a Parrot Head." For more information, contact Sue Gromis at sign4sue@ptd.net.





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Thank

The BCPHC thanks LithoTech/West Lawn Graphic. for donating a portion of the printing of the Parrot Poop. Please support LithoTech/West Lawn for all your printing needs.

Newsletter design by Suzy Rae Design.



Berks County Parrot Head Cookbook

I just wanted to say a final thank you to all the members and their friends and family that submitted all the great recipes for our cookbook. It was



sent in to the printer the beginning of September and hopefully should be finished and arrive the first week of December. Just in time for Christmas.

I will send an email when it arrives with the details of where it can be purchased and the price. I know you will all enjoy it.

The Cookbook Committee, Brenda Beissel and LeAnn Wolf

Just a Bit of News...

- Fall 2006 Margaritaville has recently opened in two new locations - Grand Cayman and Turks & Caicos (southeast of the Bahamas.)
- October 17, 2006 Buffett's new album "Take the Weather With You" debuts at #4 in its first week on the Billboard 200 chart with 120,592 copies. It was #1 on the Top Country Albums chart
- October 19, 2006 David Crosby and Jack Johnson joined Jimmy on stage in Santa Barbara.
- October 23, 2006 Jimmy Buffett was inducted into Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.
- November 2006 Just in time for your holiday shopping, (besides buying a BCPHC cookbook!)
 "Jimmy Buffett - The Key West Years" is available. Written by Tom Corcoran (Buffett's grapher), the paperback has "stories we can tell" about JB's life away off-the-road, stories behind song lyrics, his lifestyle, hangouts, and love affair with Key West.



Toys for Tots Happy Hour

December 8 at 3rd & Spruce Café,
West Reading
Join Club members and marines
from 6 – 8 p.m.
Admission is a toy or \$5 contribution

Cabin Fever Festival

Sometime when it's still cold outside. Visit our Web site for details.

Environmental Event – Adopt a Highway April 2007. Start and end at Applebee's.

General Membership Meetings -

3rd & Spruce Café - upstairs, West Reading 1st Tuesday of every month All meeting begin at 7:00 p.m. Join Club members for dinner at 6:00 p.m

For more information on these and other events scheduled after the publication of this issue of Parrot Poop, go to: www.BerksCountyPHC.org

The next issue of Parrot Poop will be issued in Spring 2007.



