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HELLO from the President's Perch

So many wonderful things have happened in the short time since the last news letter.

Very special thanks to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and Michele Moccio for honoring the Berks County Parrot Head club at their annual Gala. This year, the theme was a Beach Bash and everyone looked so comfortable in shorts and flip flops.

President Judge Jeffrey Schmehl presented a beautiful glass ship from JDRF to the Berks County Parrot Heads. Our own Parrot Head Mitch Lenett spoke about Diabetes and Juvenile Diabetes and said that a cure is near. He was great and we are proud to have him and his family in our club.



Thanks to all of our members who supported this great cause and what a Party with a Purpose it was.

Next on the list of good times was the Pirate Pub Crawl. This was a first time event for the club but I know it will not be the last. Imagine 25 pirates and 25 wenches doing the town for a night of awesome fun. We turned heads at every Port and were treated like Royalty instead Pirates. Thanks to On the Border, Captain's Cove, Blind Hartman's Tavern, Beverly Hill Tavern, The Railroad House, and Ganley's. Most of all thanks to Marilyn and Bob Baertschy for all of their hard work to make this possible.

The next day we could have all stumbled over to Louie's Back Yard for a Bloody Mary, but we cleaned the Highway instead. I can not tell you how cool it was to see all those pirates and wenches show up 12 hours later in wet weather. Everyone was quietly making noise cleaning the highway, and we finished in one hour. Thanks for your service to the Berks County Community. Not to hard to see why I love this group of Parrot Heads and why I am so proud to be your President.

*Denny
Growing older, but not up*

If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favorable. ~ Lucius Annaeus Seneca

BCPHC Honored

Lou Zmroczek



On Saturday, July 11, 2009, BCPHC's Parrot Daze raised \$13,500 for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and they were thrilled and thankful. So much, in fact, that they chose BCPHC as the honoree for their spring gala held on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza in Wyomissing and chose a beach theme for the evening's festivities.

Attendees at the gala were greeted warmly and promptly lei'd at the entrance by volunteers in tropical attire. When a large blue parrot flew in for the evening after disembarking from a pirate ship parked outside the Crowne Plaza, it became clear that the Berks County Parrot Head phlock was in the building.



And JDRF was ready for us. A margarita fountain flowed throughout the evening with that ambrosial concoction, and for those seeking more choices, a fully stocked tiki bar stood ready to oblige. The combination of refreshments, fruit, cheese, and other tasty appetizers kept everyone grazing, chilling, and browsing among tables adorned with gorgeous silent auction baskets, paintings and furniture. A delicious hot buffet offered guests claw, fin, or hoof and was completed by an equally inviting dessert table of cakes, pies and tarts. The Sound Factory provided music for the evening which was sponsored by the local law firm of Kozloff Stoudt.

JDRF thanked BCPHC once again for its generous support, and on behalf of the club, Denny Lorah accepted a gorgeous crystal sailboat inscribed as follows: "The Berks County Parrot Head Club.

Thank you for your continued commitment and passion for improving the lives of the Berks County community. JDRF Hope Gala."

While we don't do it for the thanks, it was nice to be acknowledged as a positive force in the community. A small group with a powerful voice, we're quietly making noise. A whole lot of beautiful noise.



"Thank you for your continued commitment and passion for improving the lives of the Berks County community."

Parrot Daze Charity Info



Lou Zmroczek

If you're like me, you may be marginally aware of Prospectus Berco without being able to give any kind of clear explanation of what they do. So I decided to find out and then report to you.

According to their website, Prospectus Berco is "dedicated to inspiring people with disabilities or other special needs to lead meaningful lives by providing innovative services that promote dignity and respect." A wonderful mission statement, but not enough information to assuage my insatiable curiosity. I contacted Susan Stalnecker, Director of Development for Prospectus Berco and asked for a tour.

Susan met me at the door and explained that there are two types of programs – day service and residential. Day service is located at the Reading headquarters and includes a vocational workshop employing approximately 120 people. Also at the site are eight classrooms, encompassing an adult training program, again with approximately 120 participants. The residential program includes 28 community homes in Berks, foster care services, LifeSharing and family support services. LifeSharing matches adults with an intellectual disability with local families wishing to share their home. Family support services provide assistance to families with an individual still living within the family home.

If, like me, you envision mentally challenged individuals sitting around a table doing busy work you'd be surprised. At first I saw tables set up in a U-shape, with individuals doing piece work and chatting amiably, but then my nose picked up the unmistakable odor of shrink wrapping, and I discovered Prospectus Berco has a shrink wrap and a blister pack machine. And the work they do is contracted. The organization's marketing department works hard to secure contracts with companies all over the country – including Berks companies. They have contracts with Herr's, Traypak, Sheerlund, and Reading Eagle Company. And they perform government work through JPC.

What really caught my eye that day were the stacks of little baking cups, aka cupcake papers, in all kinds of colors. The baking cups, manufactured in Sweden from spruce pulp with no chemical additive or any foreign substance, are packaged by workers at Prospectus Berco by the millions, and marketed all over the U.S. I loved it. It's a green initiative, it provides Americans with jobs, it stimulates the economy, and it involves food. Well, that last one is personal – I never met a cupcake I didn't like.

Moving from the factory to the adult classroom area, Susan explained that individuals who are mentally challenged can stay in school until they turn 21. But then what? Prospectus Berco provides training in life skills matched to an individual's ability. To encourage those individuals to live life to the fullest, they can also participate in a bevy of supervised activities. In the senior citizen area, elderly individuals who no longer want to engage in more active pursuits but still want to socialize, work on puzzles and crafts, watch TV, and chill out.

The agency operates 28 group homes, some rented and some owned. I have trouble keeping my own money pit looking spiffy and I can't imagine what it takes to keep several going, but they do it.

And then there's LifeSharing. What, I wondered, motivates an individual to reach out and share hearth and home with an intellectually challenged adult? Diana Whery, one such person, agreed to answer that question. Diana grew up around people with disabilities, intellectual and/or physical, and was comfortable with them. But she noticed that others were not. Diana said she wants individuals to understand that there are lessons to be learned from everyone. And what does she get in return? The woman who lives with her has adopted Diana and her family as her own. Amazing. Adorable. Those are the words Diana uses to describe her. She is, Diana says, part of the family.

I think I covered everything they do... did I mention the joy? In the cheerful workshop where workers forge friendships and look forward to the afternoon exercise session there is joy. In the sunny classrooms and senior center where staff and clients interact, sharing information and jokes, there is joy. In the LifeShare homes where individuals are welcomed with love, there is joy.

That's Prospectus Berco in a rather large nutshell. If you want more information on Prospectus Berco, log on to: <http://www.prospectusberco.org> to review the information and watch the videos contained there. And don't wait until the last minute to purchase your tickets for Parrot Daze!

Highway Cleanup

Eileen Davies

On Sunday, April 25, 2010, 20 volunteers from Berks County Parrot Head Club braved our stretch of Rt. 222, to tackle a most daunting task. The weather was questionable, but we forged ahead in true parrot head fashion to complete our bi-annual highway cleanup.



Attired in our flashy orange vests and gardening gloves, we faced the dampness and chill of the uncertain seasonable weather. It took our "road warriors" approximately one hour to gather what seemed to be unusually heavy bags of trash.

With wet, soggy gloves and pollen-laden shoes and pants, we trudged along completing our duty. As usual, we ended our afternoon back at Applebee's for some well-deserved fellowship. We compared our findings and shared our thoughts about the day:

The day's haul included over thirty bags of (soggy) trash.

“Attired in our flashy orange vests and gardening gloves, we faced the dampness and chill of the uncertain seasonable weather.”

- **Angie F** - “My ride left me.”
- **Brandy L** - “We’re sorry we left you, Ang.”
- **Eileen D** - “Whip it, whip it good, Brandy!”
- **Kelli L** - “The dead raccoon was disgusting!”
- **Katy S** - “Eww, maggots!”
- **Michael G** - “I got pollen on my shoes.”
- **Pam S** - “...disappointed I didn’t find anything gross enough”
- **Denny L** - “I can see today that Paula is carrying the TORCH”
- **Jodi B** - “Thank God this one’s done. Wet and squishy.”
- Paula Kershner Kline took back-to-back honors for the most unusual find, coming up with an honest-to-goodness tiki torch - very appropriate, considering that it was the Berks County Parrot Head Club doing the cleaning.

The beauty of the highway cleanup is that despite the weather (and dead critters and maggots and pollen), the long-term benefit clearly outweighs the short term discomforts, and any and all of these Parrot Heads will gladly sign on for clean up duty in October. Join us, won't you?



Work Hard, then "Party, Me Hearties!"

O. Noah Pirate



Members of the Berks County Parrot Head Club put in hundreds of volunteer hours each year raising money for local charities. To balance that, when they party, they party hearty. So on Saturday, April 24, when pirates, accompanied by their wenches, began arriving at On the Border in Wyomissing, it was obvious that something was afoot.



After promising anonymity, Parrot Poop's staff found one Parrot Head pirate known as O. Noah Pirate willing to reveal a little

of what went on that evening. Pirates came from far and wide for that special night and O. Noah swore he even saw two Pirates from Pittsburgh. When the U.S.S. Tijuana Taxi docked at On the Border with land sharks swirling about her bow, in true pirate fashion the pirates boarded her and sailed off into the sunset and adventure.

While pirates aren't known for their gregariousness, after a few jars of grog, O. Noah offered up ten things seen on that cruise:

- A real pirate princess with sparkling ears and pink tights.
- A pirate hanging out at Captain's Cove with a real swinger while fending off alligators.
- A pirate blowing a wench's horn that only true pirates can hear (all others simply see a white mist rising from the horn).
- A pirate looking for six in all the wrong places.
- A group of pirates hijacking a bus at Blind Hartman's Tavern.
- Pirates chilling at Beverly Hill Tavern.
- A pirate with a parrot that's fallen and can't get up (O. Noah swears it was a dead parrot named Monty with its feet stapled on a hat).
- Pirates slaking their thirst while feasting at Ganley's Pub.
- Pirates dancing to the Mango Summers Band at The Railroad House as trains rumbled by.
- Pirates raising their glasses in a roaring toast to Marilyn and Bob Baertschy for organizing the first annual (?) Pirate Pub Crawl.



While it has been said that everyone has a price, nothing would entice O. Noah to reveal what happened aboard the U.S.S. Tijuana Taxi that night. "Argghhh. What happened on the Tijuana stays on the Tijuana" was all he would reveal.

For those who were there, it was an evening to remember. Considering the amount of grog consumed, however, there are few that actually will remember. Therefore, when all is said and done, the Pirate Pub Crawl was a rousing success, so raise a glass and shout: Yo ho, me hearties, yo ho!



Dinner and Drinks

Duane Cahill



Pineapple chicken

“So grab a deck chair, light up the tiki torches, and treat yourself to these simple yet tasty treats on a warm summer evening.”

Summer is just around the corner, and that means summertime entrees and beverages. Nobody wants to spend time in the kitchen when the weather is nice, so this month we're going to keep it simple.

So grab a deck chair, light up the tiki torches, and treat yourself to these simple yet tasty treats on a warm summer evening.

Pineapple Chicken

Preheat the oven to 375F

- 2 lbs skinless chicken pieces
- 1 can (14 oz) unsweetened pineapple chunks, drained
- 1 tsp dried rosemary
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger

Place the chicken in a baking dish and pour the pineapple chunks over the chicken.

In a small bowl, combine the rosemary, paprika, salt, pepper and ginger. Sprinkle this over the chicken.

Bake covered for one hour or until the chicken is no longer pink inside.

Serve plain or over rice.

Banana Parfait Dessert

- 1 jar caramel ice cream topping, (about 1-1/2 cups)
- 2 tablespoons rum
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 medium bananas, ripe but firm
- Vanilla ice cream



In a large skillet over medium-low heat, combine ice cream topping, rum, and cinnamon. Cut bananas in half lengthwise then cut in half again crosswise. Add the bananas to the caramel mixture; heat through. Spoon bananas into glasses; top each serving with a generous scoop of ice cream then spoon warm caramel-rum sauce over the ice cream.

Electric Lemonade

- 1-1/2 oz vodka
- 1/2 oz blue Curacao
- 2 oz sweet and sour mix
- 7-up or Sprite

Combine vodka, blue Curacao and sweet and sour mix in a shaker or blender for 15 seconds until well mixed. Pour into a large glass with ice, add Sprite and garnish with a lemon slice and a maraschino cherry.





Strange Birds

Shawn Guevin



Our featured Strange Bird this month is our membership Committee Chair, Shawn Guevin.

Shawn was born & raised in Reading, PA and is a graduate of Exeter High School, where he was student council president. He currently resides in Exeter Twp. with his lovely wife Cheri and their dog and cat, Frankie and Lola.

Shawn started at Dutch Colony after high school and climbed the corporate food service ladder and is now the Assistant Manager of Boscov's East Greenery.

He enjoys golfing, soaking in his hot tub with his wife, and spending the rest of Cheri's money at the Bowl Grille.

FUN FACTS ABOUT SHAWN

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song: A Pirate Looks at 40. I had been singing this song for years, until I turned 40, and went "Wow - now I AM a pirate who looks at 40"

Favorite line from a JB song: "I made enough money to buy Miami, but I pissed it away so fast"

How many JB concerts have you been to, and was one any more memorable than the others? I've been to at least one show in each of the last 14 years. Most memorable was the first show that I ever took my wife to.

Have you read any of JB's books? Yes, all of them.

If all your Buffett music was lost or stolen, what would you listen to? Dave Matthews Band or Nickelback.

Favorite food: Cajun Ribeye at Austin's.

Favorite movie: A Few Good Men.

Favorite restaurant: Boscov's Greenery (open Monday - Saturday, 7 AM - 7 PM)

What do you like on your cheeseburger in paradise? Bacon and cheese.

Favorite frozen (or unfrozen) concoction: Margarita – as long as it's someplace warm.

How did you get involved in the BCPHC? Jerry and Mary Ellen Bodran.

What one thing would you like to do in life that you haven't already done? Open a B&B with Cheri – again, somewhere warm.

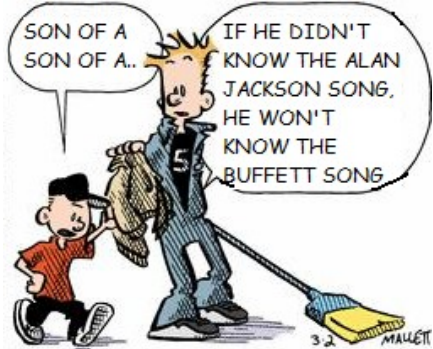
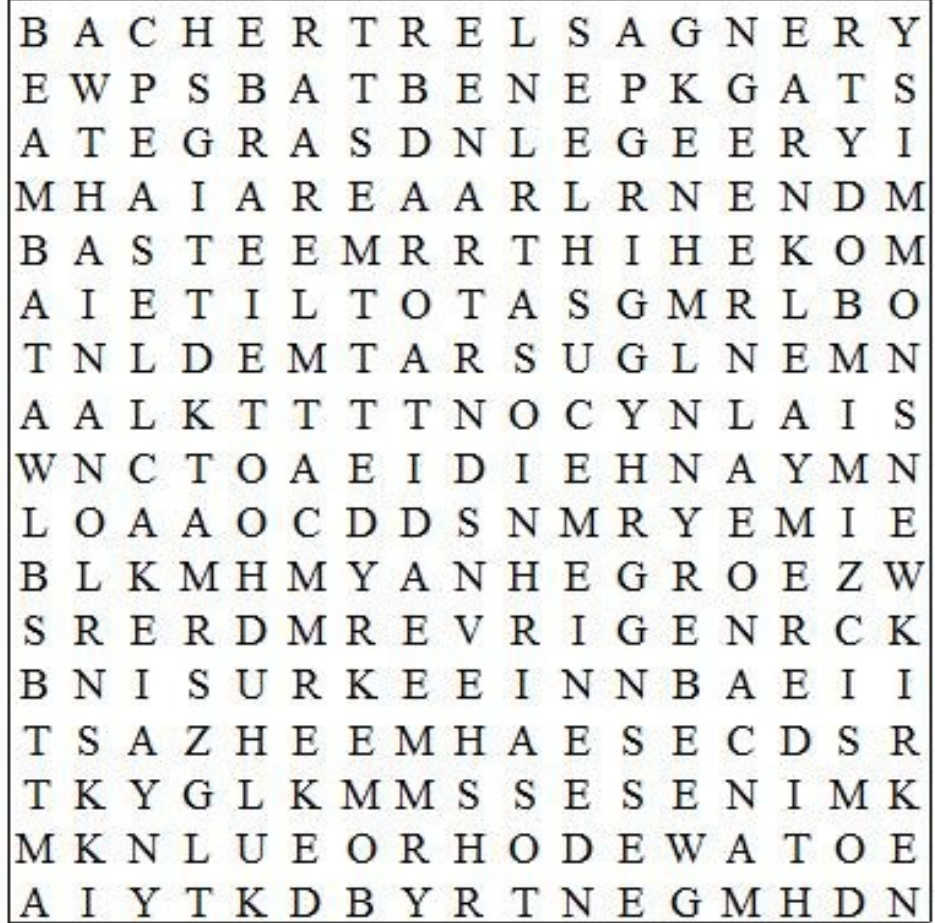
Any insights or inspirations to pass on? Drive fast, take chances.

Where the heck is Margaritaville? Shelter from the Storm, Costa Rica.

Berks County Parrot Heads



If you haven't had the opportunity to "find" yourself in the previous puzzle, here's another chance. And if you aren't in this one either, we promise to keep doing this in future issues.



4 Letters
BEAM
HAIN

5 Letters
DUGAN
KELLY
PEASE
RHODE

6 Letters
CHRIST
DAVIES
ERDMAN
GENTRY
IMBODY
KENNEY

LENGEL
LESHKO
MUZYKA
SAGNER
WEEBER

7 Letters
BACHERT
DOMSICZ
GAETANI
GERHART
MANCANO
NEWKIRK
SANGREY
SHERMOT
SIMMONS
WALTERS

8 Letters
ANGSTADT
KEMMERER
MEREDITH
PERROTTO

9 Letters
BAERTSCHY
DOUGHERTY
MANMILLER
TIMTISHIN

10 Letters
BOCKELMANN

Happy Hours Begin Again

Chuck Dugan

On Thursday, April 22nd, the club held a happy hour at Jimmy G's Railroad House in Sinking Spring. Many members attended and enjoyed the friendly atmosphere.



The Railroad House was recently voted "Best Neighborhood Bar" in the Berks County area. It has a covered cabana bar and open deck, with multiple LCD screens and an overhead projector for any sport lovers' viewing pleasure. Music was provided by Scotty Mann.

With live music, plenty of drinks, and good company, it was another good time pulled together by the events committee. We hope to see you at the next club happy hour on May 20 at the Railroad House with Mark James providing music.

Editorial

Duane Cahill

It's now been three years since I walked into my first meeting of the BCPHC. I hadn't a clue what to expect, but I just knew that I liked Jimmy Buffett - and apparently, so did these people.

Mike Gaetani walked up to me after that meeting to introduce himself and welcome me to the club. He also gave me the best advice that I could pass along to any new members - "Get involved". So I did.

I quickly volunteered for the newsletter committee, and shortly thereafter joined the volunteers committee as well. Through this involvement I've had the opportunity to meet some outstanding people who will be lifetime friends and I know that I'm a part of something far greater than the sum of its parts.

But to be perfectly honest - if we have a shortcoming as an organization, we haven't always been too terribly proficient at welcoming new members. So what I'm asking is that you take that first step if we don't (or if Mike doesn't!) If you'd like to join a committee, any of the committee chairs would love to talk to you before or after the general membership meeting. If a committee isn't your thing, but you'd like to volunteer for any of our events, Scott Kauffman is always available and most appreciative of the help.

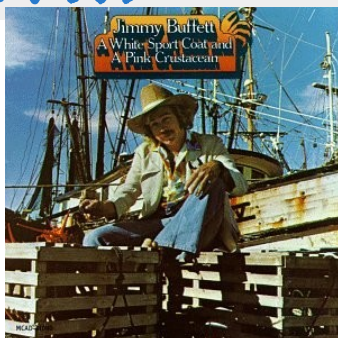
Even if we fail to reach out, I will absolutely guarantee that no matter how busy we are, we will always make time to help anyone get acclimated to the club. Even if you've been here awhile and want to become more involved in what's happening, we'll help.

We have more new members coming on board now than I've seen in quite some time, and I want to make sure that you have as great an experience with the club as I've had for the last three years. Hope to talk to you soon! ~ Duane

Trivia

Rich Leiby

How many of these Buffett songs can you name?



The following are all phrases or lines Jimmy sings in his songs, but the catch is that he sings them in a foreign language. Can you name the songs the following lines come from by their English translations? For one additional bonus point, name the language the original line is in.

- "The dancing life"
- "Have pity for the earth"
- "You and I say nothing as we suck sugar cane"

As always, answers can be found on our website at <http://www.berkscountypbc.org>



It's Five O'Clock Somewhere



A.K.A. UPCOMING EVENTS OF 2010:

Golf Outing

Friday, May 14, 2010
Willow Hollow Golf Course

Summer Parrot Daze

Saturday, July 17, 2010
Fish Pond West

BCPHC Happy Hour

Thursday, May 20, 2010
Jimmy G's Railroad House

Jimmy Buffett Concert

Saturday, August 7, 2010
Camden, NJ

R-Phils Jimmy Buffett Night

Wednesday, June 23, 2010
First Energy Stadium

Jimmy Buffett Concert

Tuesday, August 10, 2010
Camden, NJ



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