



ISSUE 23

WINTER 2011

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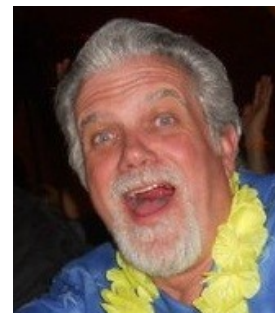
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HELLO from the President's Perch

Hello from the Prez. Many exciting changes became reality at the end of 2010 and at the beginning of 2011. The BCPHC has experienced many successes over eight wonderful years and at last count we are rapidly approaching \$300,000 in contributions to local charities. So to those who wonder "why change anything?" - my answer is that nothing gets better without adding to it or tweaking things as we learn.



We changed the date of the Christmas show from the first to the third Saturday in December. Then we moved the show to the Miller Center and added Mike Utley, Doyle Grisham and Crawdaddy. The Miller Center proved to be the right venue and I still have other Parrot Head Clubs telling me that it was the best show they've ever seen from any Parrot Head Club, and they're coming back with bigger groups from their clubs. This year's show will be December 17 and we WILL sell out, so save the date.

Next, the Cabin Fever party was moved from the Reading Country Club to Building 24. We changed the price of tickets and included an all-you-can-eat buffet. We booked a new band, Davey and the Waverunners and we made sure we had a dance floor. For the first time, we used a live auctioneer for a live auction.

I love change and new ideas. I believe all of the decisions made by your board were the right ones and both events were successful, raising \$26,000 in about 45 days.

The next change will be to move the Summer Parrot Daze party to the Reading Liederkrantz on July 16. Stay tuned for more details as they develop, but you will not want to miss this one.

We certainly have a great group of birds in the Phlock and I am grateful to be your Prez.

Thanks for all you do to add to our continued success.

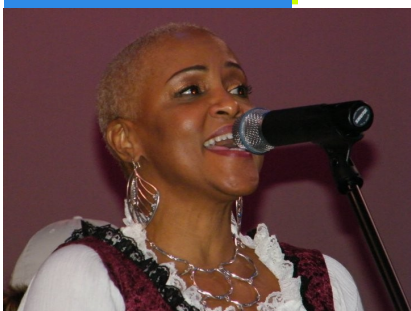
Denny

At the beach, life is different. Time doesn't move hour to hour, but mood to moment. We live by the currents, plan by the tides, and follow the sun.

Christmas in the Caribbean



“If having a Coral Reefer join Jimmy and the Parrots was good, wouldn’t having three be better?”



Nadirah provided the performance of the evening, with an awe-inspiring a cappella rendition of “Give Love on Christmas Day”



When you have an event as successful as our Christmas in the Caribbean concert has been, what do you do to improve it? Can you improve it? Should you even try? Those were questions that faced the BCPHC after the most successful Caribbean Christmas event in history in 2009. In twisting an old adage, we decided “If it ain’t broke, break it and make it better!”

Perhaps the only thing that did remain the same was our stellar opening act - the Plenty Problems Steel Drum Band. Unbeknownst to the concert-goers, this would be the band’s final performance, as they’ve hung up the mallets. But what a way to end a farewell tour!



If having a Coral Reefer join Jimmy and the Parrots was good, wouldn’t having three be better? What if you added a harmonica? Wait a minute. A harmonica? To a Christmas concert? Doesn’t make sense! But we brought in Michael “Crawdaddy” Crawley, and he was a hit!

Scottish Rite Cathedral was an outstanding venue. Why change? Why, indeed! The Miller Center provided the perfect size with phenomenal acoustics and there wasn’t a bad seat in the house.

With Michael Utley and Doyle Grisham joining the band, the contrast between this show and any other we’ve hosted was evident. **Come Monday’s** pedal steel guitar solo was note-for-note because Grisham wrote it. The intro to **Volcano?** Nobody could possibly play it like Utley. And Crawdaddy could have been channeling Fingers Taylor himself, as he was spot on throughout the evening.

Jimmy and the Parrots brought their standard high-energy enthusiasm to the show and the blend of instruments by these musicians were the perfect backdrop to the real star of Nadirah Shakoor, who returned to Reading for the second consecutive year.

In addition to putting her own spin on Buffett standards and Christmas tunes, Nadirah provided the performance of the evening, with an awe-inspiring a cappella rendition of “Give Love on Christmas Day”, a song that many of our local Parrot Heads had never heard, but one that became an instant favorite due to the chills that went down the collective spines of the audience.

One can only ponder what changes are in store next year, but you can rest assured that whatever they are, the result can only be success.



The Schmidt Training and Technology Center on the RACC campus was the first stop for Parrot Heads heading on to a fabulous Christmas in the Caribbean Concert at the Miller Center for the Arts, located across the walkway from Schmidt.

If you skipped dinner that evening (and even if you didn't), Boscov's Catering provided an outstanding spread of fruit, cheeses, veggies and hot hors d'oeuvres. Ever epicurious, I asked Shawn and Cheri Guevin for the evening's menu. Dim sum, Asian dumplings, barbecued shrimp skewers, cocktail franks, chicken satay, brie with raspberries, popcorn and snack mix graced the tables to the delight of those in attendance.



There was a rum punch and margarita station to ease you into the holiday spirit and Denny Lorah provided wine for the event. It was delicious. I should know. I was a frequent customer.



Did you win any of the raffle items? I didn't, but it doesn't matter. I couldn't resist buying tickets and I put at least one ticket in every container because they were all enticing prizes. I don't know how they keep doing it, but I can't wait to see what they've come up with for Cabin Fever.

I brought along some non-Parrot Head guests in hopes of converting them (and because I know they enjoy great music). Ever tried explaining to a slightly drunk non-Parrot Head what the Parrot Head Club is? Here's my attempt:

Guest: What is the Parrot Head Club?
 Me: It's a club for people who enjoy the music of Jimmy Buffett.
 Guest: Jimmy Buffett! Isn't he the margarita guy? Boy, I'd like to toast him for coming up with that song!
 Me: Uh, I think you already have. Several times.
 Guest: Oh yeah. Great party, by the way. Do you hold many parties?
 Me: This event is a benefit for Berks County Crime Alert. The Parrot Head Club motto is "Party with a Purpose".
 Guest: Why would you want to party with a porpoise? Sounds fishy to me.

That's when my guest's wife caught up with him and steered him away from the margaritas and closer to the hot hors d'oeuvre area.

At the end of the evening, I asked my guests for their comments and from the pre-concert reception to the end of the concert, they loved it all. It was the first time any of them had been in the Miller Center, and they were surprised how easy it was to drive there and park. I expect that they'll be back for other events at the Miller Center and I already have their requests for tickets to the 2011 Christmas in the Caribbean show.

All in all, the reception was the first jewel in the crown of an evening filled with sparkling Christmas gems. For all who attended, it was a great night - or an early morning if you were part of the after party!



THE after-party

Duane Cahill



Approximately 100 dyed-in-the-wool Parrot Heads crowded into our section of the restaurant...

There aren't many occasions where an after-party to an event would warrant its own article. But when Jimmy and the Parrots are in town, it's no typical after-party.

After the Christmas in the Caribbean concert at the Miller Center, we invited the entire band back for a late-night meal and drinks at Viva Good Life Bistro. Approximately 100 dyed-in-the-wool Parrot Heads crowded into our section of the restaurant and enjoyed dinner while re-living highlights of the concert we'd just attended.

Before the plates were cleared from the table, Jimmy and the Parrots were up on stage to kick off what would become a five-hour extravaganza. That's right. FIVE hours. And that was AFTER their performance at Miller.

At various times throughout the evening, the band was joined by Nadirah, Michael Utley, Crowdaddy, and of course, our local Parrot Heads in varying stages of sobriety. I even had the opportunity to sit in on keyboards before the night was over.

Or was the night every really over? Long after the Coral Reefers packed up and headed to their hotel, Jimmy, Jimmy and Crowdaddy continued to play long into the night. They played past last call. They played past closing time. When they shut down on the stage, they played at tables in the restaurant. And when the folks at the restaurant finally kicked everyone out, they played for another half-hour in the foyer.

It was 3:00 AM before everything finally shut down and everyone headed off to their respective hotel rooms. I'm typically an early riser, but I was surprised to see most of the band in the hotel lobby by 7:30 AM as they all had to leave town early. The hour of their departure made me appreciate even more the overtime that they put in to create lasting memories of the hottest after-party in BCPHC history!





You wake up one cold January morning and have vague memories of the previous evening. Your favorite hockey team got beat at home, you remember that. You look over at your freezer and see six holes. How did that happen? A vague recollection of friends yelling something about “boats” or “drinks”. You open your morning newspaper and see that the local Boscov’s travel agency is running a sale on airfare to the Caribbean. And all you can think is “I gotta go where it’s warm”.

It was certainly warm at Building 24 at noon on January 30 as the Berks County Parrot Head Club tried out a new site for our annual Cabin Fever Festival. And it was a great location. I mean, this is a place that regularly puts on shows to full houses, and they know how it’s done. Everything was top-notch.

Davey and the Waverunners provided the music with an array of Buffett favorites and classic rock tunes. And Davey’s not a guy who is content with just staying on stage, strumming his guitar and singing into a floor microphone. Nope, Davey gets out there with the crowd, riling everyone up with antics like performing on the bar rail, roller skating around the dance floor and generally picking up the spirits of everyone in the crowd.



The charity that the club was supporting that day was the Berks Animal Rescue League, a no-kill facility that provides shelter and care for unwanted and homeless animals. Parrot Head Extraordinaire and President of the Animal Rescue League Barrie Pease brought with him two cats from the shelter, and they greeted guests at the ticket booth as they entered the event. Apparently one of the two was a real charmer, as he was adopted right there on the spot!



A full buffet (have I been following Jimmy Buffett for so long that the word “buffet” looks to be a misspelling?) was served, with chicken, burgers, salads and snacks, and the line seemed to be never-ending. That’s a sure sign of good food. Drinks were flowing from two bars, and guests on all three floors of the complex were enjoying the music and the camaraderie.

A highlight of the day was a live auction, with local professional auctioneer Dick Henry donating his services. Dick knows how to work a crowd, and there is no doubt that his expertise was able to coax a few more dollars out of some of the buyers. I know that the LandShark surfboard that I’ve been eyeing for about four auctions now went for more than it ever has before.

At the end of the day, the club raised \$13,000 for the Animal Rescue League, and everyone who attended reported that they had a great time, loved the new venue, and would certainly return next year. And frankly, I’m not sure that I can think of a better measure of success.



Stars and Promises

Lou Mancano



On December 12, 2010, about two dozen Berks County Parrot Heads met at Denny and Tina's, who graciously hosted hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and drinks. Immediately following, the group made a convoy to the Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA to treat themselves to the distinctive sound of Peter Mayer's unmistakable lead guitar and smooth tenor vocals. Peter's ten-year anniversary Stars and Promises Christmas Concert was a departure from the Coral Reefer sound to a mix of easy listening and jazz, with a unique Eastern Indian and Native American influence. His incredibly talented band was made up of R. Scott Bryan on drums, percussion and vocals;

Marc Torlina on stand-up bass, electric bass, and vocals; Chris Walters on piano; violinist and mandolin player Maggie Estes, and Mark Holland on the Native American flute. Peter's sound and light crew, Chad Stewart and Dave Champagne, perfectly blended the music with effects and visual accents.

"Mayer began the evening with his rendition of 'Glory to the Newborn King...'"

Mayer began the evening with his rendition of "Glory to the Newborn King" and followed with a variety of jazzed up Christmas classics and his own original recordings. Between songs, Peter enlightened the listeners with stories behind several of the songs he had written. His "A Junkman's Christmas" was about treasured "junk" – a lighter that sparked, pipe cleaners, and a few used toys - his missionary father had given him as a child at Christmas when he and his family were living in India. His band performed the song using "junk instruments" including a broom, a wooden block, and an old guitar that Peter signed and used for a charity auction during the intermission. Mayer and his band ended the evening with a beautifully harmonized acoustic version of "Silent Night."

After the concert, Peter and his band graciously mingled with a crowd of several hundred fans who had just finished indulging in a uniquely musical holiday experience. All in attendance agreed that seeing Peter Mayer up close and personal is an experience to remember. My advice? Parrot Heads and jazz enthusiasts alike should plan now to treat themselves to Peter and his band's return to Pennsylvania in 2011. Don't miss it.





Strange Birds

Duane Cahill



Duane, our resident newsletter/website/media/PR guy, was born in Library, PA (not to be confused with in “a” library) and grew up in a little western Pennsylvania town called Belle Vernon. It was there that his strong ties to all things Pittsburgh were formed, and it explains why most of his clothing is black and/or gold.

After completing the five-year plan at Penn State (and only then learning that the whole journalism thing wasn’t all that lucrative) Duane began a career in retail management and fortunately stumbled into wireless, where he still works today as a Territory Manager for Hewlett-Packard’s Northeast Region.

Duane lives WAY up north in Deer Lake, and welcomes you to stop by on your way to Vermont or Canada.

FUN FACTS ABOUT DUANE

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song: Last Mango will always be a favorite thanks to a 2007 meeting with Captain Tony. Additionally, Somewhere Over China is on my list, as are Death of an Unpopular Poet, Pacing the Cage and Survive.

Favorite line from a JB song: I’m a dry humor guy, so I love the opening line, “Tomorrow may come, it usually does” from “Anything, Anytime, Anywhere”.

How many JB concerts have you been to, and was one any more memorable than the others? I’m guessing 15-20, but who counts? Each is memorable on its own accord (and not always in a positive way - Boardwalk Hall roof seats) but it would be hard to beat the front row seats in Virginia, 2010.

Have you read any of JB's books? All but “Swine Not?” I just haven’t made time for it yet.

If all your Buffett music was lost or stolen, what would you listen to? My XM radio. The Bridge, Classic Vinyl, The Blend, and of course, Radio Margaritaville (unless someone stole all of their music, too).

Favorite food: 2” thick filet mignon (medium, please) with a loaded baked potato. Lettuce wedge w/blue cheese and Mom’s peanut butter cream pie for dessert.

Favorite restaurant: Seven Stars Inn in Phoenixville.

What do you like on your cheeseburger in paradise? Lettuce, tomato and onion.

Favorite frozen (or unfrozen) concoction: A Samuel Smith Oatmeal Stout, a St. Bernardus ABT 12, or a Jeff Blatt Bloody Mary.

How did you get involved in the BCPHC? It was through the internet. I sent an e-mail to Denny asking about joining, despite the fact that I technically live in Schuylkill County. I qualified anyway - hurray!

What one thing would you like to do in life that you haven’t already done? The number one (likely unattainable) thing on my bucket list is to find some way to sing backup with Buffett on A Pirate Looks at 40.

Any insights or inspirations to pass on? It’s not a stretch to say that joining the BCPHC was one of the most impactful decisions I’ve made. And if it suddenly ended tomorrow, I would somehow adjust to the fall knowing that the friendships that I’ve found in this club will be lifelong.

Where the heck is Margaritaville? They’re all over. My next will be the one in Montego Bay!

Toys for Tots

Diane Renninger

“What am I going to get everyone for Christmas? When am I going to bake the cookies? Oh no, the company Christmas party is at a nice restaurant this year, what am I going to wear? I can’t wait until this is over!” STOP!

Christmas is a blessed and peaceful time of year. A time when we should remember those less fortunate and be thankful for all that we have. How do we take a break from the craziness and focus on what is important? Well the Berks County Parrot Heads have an annual tradition that does just that. The annual Toys For Tots party is always a special time.

Buying gifts for children who otherwise wouldn’t have anything allows us time to realize what we have and be thankful. A special visit by the Marines also allows us time to reflect on the special gift the armed forces give us everyday - our freedom! What a magical evening as the Parrot Heads sell raffle tickets for the campaign throughout 3rd and Spruce. They are accompanied by the Marines who receive handshake after handshake from patrons thanking them for their service.

As the evening comes to a close I see Marines standing around talking to various folks from the club and I only wish more folks would take a time out from the shopping and cookie baking to be thankful for all that we have.

Merry Christmas to everyone and God Bless all of the service men and women who give up so much everyday so the rest of us can enjoy Peace on Earth!

A special note: One of the Marines told Chuck Dugan that the Toys for Tots national campaign averages a gift or two for children Christmas morning. They were proud that our local campaign sends six or seven gifts to each child. How wonderful to be living in such a giving community.

“... our local campaign sends six or seven gifts to each child.”

How many people can you list whose name appears in the lyrics of a Jimmy Buffett song?

Trivia

Rich Leiby

Over the years, Jimmy’s songs have told us many stories about fictitious characters like Frankie and Lola, Ace, Skip Wiley, or Norman Paperman. However, Jimmy has also mentioned by name some real people in his lyrics as well. This month’s trivia question: How many people, living or dead, can you list whose name appears in the lyrics of a Jimmy Buffett song?

Three rules: 1) To qualify, the lyric MUST contain the person’s first and last name. 2) The song must be SUNG in the lyrics, and not spoken or shouted. 3) The names of Coral Reefers are ineligible.

Limit yourself to 15 minutes. No fair going to a lyrics website. Test your memory.

There are 30 or more legitimate answers!

- 11 or more: superb
- 8-10: excellent
- 5-7: very good
- 2-4: average
- 0-1: Ever heard of Jimmy Buffett?

Quick Licks with Nadirah Shakoor Tracey Lutz

Nadirah has wanted to be a singer ever since she was a little girl. And when she belts out a soulful song, you can feel the emotion down to your toes. After moving from Texas to California and studying voice, she was a backup singer for many big artists. But in 1992, she joined Arrested Development, where she received a Grammy nomination as their featured female vocalist.

Ms. Shakoor has a long list of performing credits, but we Parrot Heads got to know her voice very well when she joined Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band in 1995. She also enjoys performing with her own band, Outside Art, as lead vocalist. I spoke with Nadirah at the BCPHC Christmas in the Caribbean show in December. I'm sure we all hope to hear her expressive voice and see her contagious smile soon.

Do you have a favorite Parrot Head moment?

Well, one good one was when I saw Jimmy in the snow in flip flops. But there are so many.

Did you ever think the Parrot Head wave would be going this long?

Absolutely not. When I first joined the Coral Reefer Band, I thought I'd be there a year. And everybody in the band had been there 10 or 20 years. And I thought maybe a year would be good. And 15 years later - I'm still here. I had no idea.

Do you have any thoughts about where you're going with the band in the future?

Well, I have my own band, and we have a flexible schedule that allows me to do other things like come to Berks County and play with Jimmy and the Parrots. JB has been doing things in Haiti and I've actually been thinking about asking him if I could be a kind of ambassador for the Coral Reefer Band. Haiti needs so much and we can do a lot. So that's been on my mind lately. But my dream for the Coral Reefer Band is that we do some concerts. I would really love to do a weekend festival with the Reefers where everyone in the band is supporting one another musically, and to feature each person's original music. And I know that perfect place in San Francisco to do it. I'm putting that out into the universe. I would love to do that.

"I would really love to do a weekend festival with the Reefers..."

Stars on the Water (Volunteers Committee) - Scott Kauffman The golf outing will be here before you know it, and as always we're looking for volunteers to man the beverage tents, sell raffle and mulligan tickets, register golfers and monitor the grand prize holes. It's sure to be a great time, so join us, won't you?

We Need More Junior Mints (Sponsorship Committee) - Sam Beam Sponsorship is looking for hole sponsors for the golf outing on May 20th. What is a better way to advertise your business than a hole sponsorship for only \$150?

Parrot Poop (Newsletter Committee) - Duane Cahill Newsletter, website, media, PR - If there's any way that you can think of to help us better serve the club, let us know. Better yet, if you're expert in any of the above, come and join us!

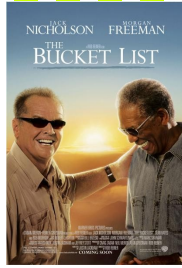
Pfeeding P frenzy (Merchandise Committee) - Tina Shenk Thanks everyone for their generous donations for our Cabin Fever event. We are now organizing merchandise ideas and getting ready for Parrot Daze. Also on our agenda is creating the new cookbook. Join our committee and have fun being part of this great club!

Party With a Purpose (Events Committee) - Jodi Blatt We have a great lineup of happy hours this year in addition to our regular monthly meetings, a pub crawl, golf tournament and Parrot Daze.

Changes in Attitude (Charity Committee) - Gary Kraft Join us as we support BCPS/Berks Connections at our Golf Outing, and Concern at Summer Parrot Daze and help push the club over \$300,000 in charitable donations!

If the Phone Doesn't Ring (Membership Committee) - Shawn Guevin A little birdie told me that dues may rise for new members for the first time in eight and a half years. Make sure you get in now at the current rate. Renewals are \$20 per person or \$25 per couple, with an extra \$5 for each family member under 21 years old.

What's on my Bucket List?



Several weeks ago, I sent an e-mail asking members for some information, and one of the things I asked for is "What's on your bucket list?" In other words, what is the one thing that you would like to do before you kick the bucket? I received some very interesting answers, and now it's time to give everyone a chance to know your fellow Parrot Heads just a little bit better. See if you can match the Parrot Head to the dream.

Joe Bean

Bicycle across the country, hitting as many states as possible.

Bonnie Blatt

Go to see a New Orleans Saints game in the Superdome.

Angie Fegley

I'd like to visit Europe and see the cities where my grandparents were born.

Dot Imbody

Kayak in Alaska.

Gary Kraft

A trip to Hawaii to see Jimmy Buffett in concert.

Lou Mancano

Write a best-selling novel.

Tina Schreib

Attend Women's X's and O's Fantasy Football Camp at PSU.

Susan Standefer

Take a hot air balloon ride.

Lou Zmrocek

Visit Transylvania

"... now it's time to give everyone a chance to know your fellow Parrot Heads just a little bit better."

As always, answers will be found on the website along with this month's trivia. So what's on YOUR bucket list? Send it to me at duanecahill@verizon.net and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of the Parrot Poop!



What's (coming) Up, Doc?

Here's a quick snapshot of some of the events that we have planned for the upcoming months! Consider this to be kind of a save-the-date type of quick reference.

Pirates Pub Crawl

April 30

Bob and Marilyn Baertschy are doing it again. The second annual Pirates Pub Crawl will take place on April 30. As much as I wish I could give you more information, it's all pretty hush-hush right now. All we know is that we will be hitting five or six of Berk's County's finest establishments and traveling in luxurious bus accommodations.

While the bus is sold out, you are more than welcome to join us at any or all of the stops along the way. The club's Twitter account (berksphc) will be providing updates as we travel so that you can catch up in your car. Please drink responsibly and have a designated driver if you choose to follow.

Golf Outing

May 1

We will be hosting our annual Golf Outing on May 20, returning to Willow Hollow Golf Course in Leesport. The course features three ponds and streams, so a good tee shot is important. The course is well-maintained, with a tee-to-green irrigation system, and continuous cart paths allow course travel in all kinds of weather.

The entry fee is \$75 per golfer, which includes greens fees, a cart and food. We'll also have prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, hole-in-one and a putting contest. Don't worry if you don't have a foursome. We'll create groups as needed.

If you'd like to sponsor a hole, we can do that for just \$150. Contact Sam Beam at kamando@aol.com

Summer Parrot Daze

July 16

Our biggest fund-raiser, Summer Parrot Daze, is getting a new home. Yes, our little club is growing up and needs more space. We will be at the Reading Liederkrantz on Saturday, July 16 and we have quite the lineup of food, fun, entertainment and adult beverages.

Kicking off the entertainment will be Mark James, a perennial BCPHC favorite, with Dennis McCaughey of Tropical Soul. Mark and Dennis have played together before and while they're each great in their own right, the combination of their vast libraries, musical talent and harmonies are sure to bring a great show to a lazy summer afternoon.

Then that evening, look out because it's a band that used to be called Second Wind that will be rocking the house. You know them by the name they go by today, Jimmy and the Parrots. And it's not just them - Michael "Crowdaddy" Crawley will be bringing his harmonica and joining the band as a special guest.

This is an event that you're not going to want to miss, so make sure that you save the date and are ready for a day of Boats, Beaches, Bars, and maybe a Ballad or two.



*It's Five
O'Clock
Somewhere*



A.K.A. UPCOMING

Pirates Port of Call Pub Crawl

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Meeting Place to be announced

Summer Parrot Daze

Saturday, July 16, 2011

Reading Liederkranz

Spring Highway Cleanup

Sunday, May 1, 2011

Applebee's, Wyomissing

Fall Highway Cleanup

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Third & Spruce

Golf Outing

Friday, May 20, 2010

Willow Hollow Golf Course

Club Birthday Party

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Third & Spruce



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PO BOX 6167
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