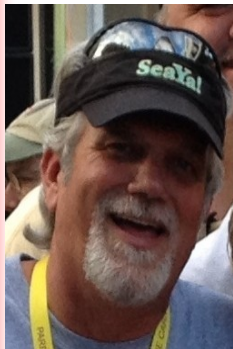




parrot poop

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HELLO from the President's Perch

I took off for a week last month just to recall the whole year. Actually I went to Key West town for Meeting of the Minds. There were 60 Berks County Parrot Heads who migrated south to celebrate year 20 of this great gathering of Parrot Heads. The rumors were right this year and Mr. JB arrived at the street fair Friday afternoon. It was no Jamaica Mistaka. Jimmy played for an hour and a half and the weather suited his clothes. It was very special for old-time Buffett fans as he only did songs recorded before 1975.

This year's MOTM had some of the best weather ever with a light Banana Breeze. Congratulations to Bob and Kris who caught their first sailfish and to Mike and Mo (our tree-top fliers) on their first biplane ride.

Before I knew what was happening it was Tuesday on the Island and I was on the last plane out. I started to recall the whole year thinking back through all those miles of smiles and the money our Gypsies in the Palace raised in 2011. Our club contributions so far this year helped boost our total contributions over the \$300,000 mark, and we still have one more trip around the sun to go—the Christmas show on December 17th at the Miller Center. Details can be found at berkscountyPHC.org. Jimmy and the Parrots, Club Trini (Robert Greenidge and Michael Utley), and Nadirah Shakoore will be performing. Don't be a fruitcake and miss this show!

The wino and I know that this club has made me a Jolly Mon and I am not Havana Daydreaming.

Merry Christmas from the PREZ

Denny

2011 Meeting of the Minds

Duane Cahill



Visiting Key West for Meeting of the Minds is always a fun time. But admittedly, some years are better than others. And as this was the 20th anniversary of the celebration, everything seemed to fall into place to make it one of the better years.

The Club's last two trips to the southernmost point in the continental United States were nice. But two years ago, it rained for the entire trip. Last year, the temperatures never got out of the low 70's (to contrast, the mercury hit 70 here in Berks County during this year's MOTM). And while nice is, well – nice, and it's always good to get away, it seems those trips were missing something.

This year, absolutely nothing was the least bit askew. With temps in the high 70's and low 80's, the Parrot Heads in Paradise put on one of their best (and perhaps best attended) Buffett-fests in history. And to help celebrate – an appearance by Jimmy himself at the Margaritaville Street Fest on Friday afternoon.

Jimmy showed up with the Coral Reefers and played a free 75-minute set, featuring a lot of great stuff from the 70's and early 80's, like Tin Cup Chalice, Nautical Wheelers, and Woman Goin' Crazy on Caroline Street. A crowd of about 3,000 gathered on Duval Street for the show, and very few left disappointed. In addition to Jimmy's headline performance, the week was about the musicians - from national acts such as John Frinzi, the Boat Drunks and Peter Mayer, to BCPHC favorites Jimmy and the Parrots and Mark James. Dozens of trop rockers from around the US descended upon *Cayo Hueso* to share their songs with fans who traveled from all corners of the globe.

But the week wasn't solely about music for the 57 Parrot Heads who showed up from County Berks. There were several outstanding meals at old standbys like Blue Heaven and Pepe's, and we discovered a new favorite – Garbo's Grille – a lunch wagon that makes its home on Greene Street near the Conch Republic Seafood Company. Its #1 Tripadvisor.com ranking among Key West restaurants is very well-deserved.



As usual, we once again patronized some of the town's adult-beverage establishments and they served up our favorite concoctions – frozen or otherwise. These are iconic places like Sloppy Joe's, Captain Tony's Saloon, the Green Parrot and of course, Margaritaville. A new entrant this year is a joint called the "Smokin' Tuna", an outdoor bar off an alley off Duval. The jury is still out, as our club members gave it mixed reviews. However, if you're going to be that far off the beaten path, you'd better be special. We'll see.

Key West isn't merely about eating, drinking, and music, but it's a chance to spend some quality down time with friends away from home. And the activities included an all-inclusive happy hour at the Southernmost Point Guest House, fishing, swimming, snorkeling, a biplane ride, biking, a pub crawl, sunset celebrations, and other activities too numerous to count.

While some members have mentioned that it's going to be difficult to match the level of enjoyment that this year's trip delivered, don't lose sight of the fact that everything we had this year will still be there next – with the exception of Jimmy. And while his performance at the street fair was a nice addition, it was but a small part of a trip that just keeps getting better each year.

"Sun is shining. Weather is sweet. Make you wanna move your dancing feet."
— Bob Marley ("Sun is Shining" lyrics)

20th Annual Meeting of the Minds



2011 Fall Highway Cleanup: Trashier than Usual

Lou Mancano

There was quite a turnout for the 2011 Fall semiannual highway cleanup. Parrot Heads came from near and far to gather at the Third and Spruce parking lot on a beautiful warm October 23rd Sunday afternoon. Following a brief Philadelphia soft pretzel and water fest, the caravan, donned in orange vests and canvas gloves, headed to the club's one-mile stretch of Route 222 to see what awaited them. What began as a typical BCHPC family friendly event gradually turned into, shall I say, a trashy expedition. The usual quest for the most "interesting treasures" on the side of the road quickly became, uhh, a little racey.

For those who are easily offended, close your eyes and put your hands over your ears as you read on .

Many enthusiastic BCHPC members spent the next hour or so picking up the usual cans, bottles, plastic, and paper - as well as a number of trashy items of - nudge, nudge - a different sort. Now, for those who are easily offended, close your eyes and put your hands over your ears as you read on, or I'd imagine you can skip to the next section of the Newsletter. Well, for those still reading, here goes. Among the trashier items were six pornographic DVDs including a "Slut Wives Training

Video." Not one, not two, but in a three part series. I'll spare you all the other titles. There was also found a very spooky-looking doll's head with pins through it, perhaps a remnant of a cult voodoo ritual. Last but not least, the winner, voted the trashiest of the trashy, was a black and white bumper sticker with a "flipping the bird" logo that read "Go **** (expletive) yourself. " Can you imagine?

After a clean phamily phriendly photo of Parrot Heads perched on the concrete wall above the large pile of assorted trash and treasures, everyone headed back to Third and Spruce for a Key West-themed club birthday bash. Next highway cleanup? Hide the children!



Parade Season Wrap-up 2011

Ray Albert

As we approach the Christmas holidays we bring a close to parade season and another great showing by our club in locales around Berks County. Many thanks go to all those who participated and a special thanks to all those behind the scenes that make the float such a rousing success.

Temple: Take about 13 pirates, add some cold rain, throw in some beads and candy and you've got the Temple parade. All in all the parade was dry - except for the beginning and the end! The kids loved all the pirates and candy and we heard many compliments about the pirate ship.



Reading: The annual holiday Christmas Parade took place on Saturday, November 19th on Penn Street in downtown Reading. The theme of the parade was "The Holidays: A Time to Remember Our Heritage." Floats, car clubs, dancers, elected officials, sports cars, horses, and eight high school marching bands took part in the parade.



The BCPHC pirate ship float made a grand appearance, firing tee shirts into the crowd and "sailed" by many able seafaring club members. Despite the Club's fine showing, first place prize for float entries went to the Reading/Muhlenberg career and Technology Center.



Myerstown: The annual Myerstown parade kicked off the post-Thanksgiving holiday season in style on Saturday, November 26th. Covering a one-and-a-half mile route, the parade featured a variety of bands and entries by civic organizations. The BCPHC pirate ship took home third prize in the float competition. As much fun as the parade was, the after-parade party was even more so, featuring a wide variety of merriment including a mechanical bull, calf-roping, and limbo dance competition!

Quick Licks w/Jake Shimabukuro

Tracey Lutz

He says that it is a blessing and a dream to be able to play the ukulele every night. It shows. Jake Shimabukuro takes complete command of the stage – just one man and a ukulele. The “Parrot Poop” caught up with him for an exclusive interview at a recent performance at Steel Stacks in Bethlehem, PA. You can tell that there are many people at the show who really don’t know who Jake is or what he does. But it doesn’t take long to look around and see that the native Hawaiian has won the entire audience over. Who knew that playing a ukulele was so physical? At one point in his show Jake made his 4 strings sound like a 13 string Japanese Koto. Unreal! If you get the chance, look him up on YouTube. It won’t take long to come across some amazing performances. Or check his website (jakeshimabukuro.com) for tour dates and his official YouTube video. If you ever get to see him in concert, it’s a show you won’t regret.



PP: You have so much energy. Where do you get it all from?

J: When I’m on stage, I really love playing. Sometimes you can be so tired from all the traveling but when you get on stage and start playing, all that goes away. The tiredness just melts away. I remember doing really long drives and when you get to the show you just barely have time to do a sound check. Before you know it the doors are opening and it’s amazing. I really believe it comes from the music, and being open to all the energy in the room. When people are coming to a concert they get excited and I think I’m just channeling some of that energy.

PP: Radio Margaritaville replays the concert from Hawaii when you played with Jimmy and Henry Kapono. What was it like to be on stage with such a Hawaiian legend?

J: Henry has been like a big brother to me. When I first started performing in Hawaii, maybe ten years ago, he really took me under his wing. He used to own a club and he would allow me to come in and play. I mean, he’s just a great guy, he’s a living legend. I grew up listening to his songs and being able to share the stage with guys like that is amazing. I never would have thought when I was a kid, seeing them on TV or hearing them on the radio that I would one day be on stage with them or on TV with them.

PP: You mentioned that you started playing when you were four.

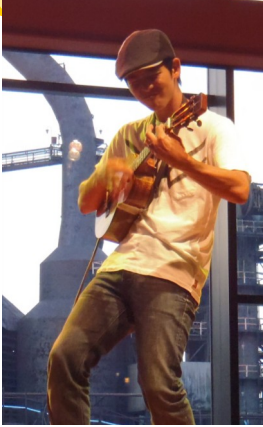
J: Well that was just in Hawaii though. Not where you could make a living just playing ukulele. All of my buddies that play music have real jobs. They only play on the weekends or at night. I always knew that I would play but I never, ever thought that I would be able to do this. I thought I was going to go into education because I love working with kids. And I wanted to be an elementary school teacher. That’s what I was going to college for and I was taking music courses and just fooling around. On the weekends I was playing at clubs and coffee shops and I was happy doing that. I never thought that there was really more that I could do.

PP: You mentioned Van Halen on stage as the pivotal point that you wondered “what can I do with the ukulele.”

J: Oh yea, it was one of those moments that I remember clearly. It’s when I decided I wanted to extend beyond what I was doing at the time, which was a lot of traditional Hawaiian music. But I remember the first song that I actually learned in high school was one from Extreme and they had a really big hit, “More Than Words,” and everyone was playing that on the guitar. And then I figured it out on ukulele. I came to school and started playing it for all the guitar guys and they were like “what the... that’s not a ukulele song!” That’s when I started realizing that it’s kind of fun to surprise people and do something that they are not expecting to hear on a ukulele, like quoting rock riffs or classical pieces. In the beginning it was like a joke, but then I was taking it a step further and turning it into something musical and tasteful. That’s been the struggle, to take something like “While My Guitar Gentle Weeps” and “Bohemian Rhapsody” and do more than just play them on the ukulele.

(continued on page 7)

Quick Licks w/Jake Shimabukuro (cont. from p 6)



PP: When do you feel like you got that launch on your career?

J: Oh that was the YouTube video. When that YouTube video hit, that's how I met Jimmy Buffett and Yo-Yo Ma, Bette Midler, and Cyndi Lauper. Well actually, Jimmy talked to Bette Midler cause they are good friends, and he told her that she and I should collaborate on something. Then I did a show in Vegas and Jimmy had lunch with Bette and he came back and said 'Bette and I just had lunch and we were talking about you.' And I was like 'Really? You were talking about me?' Then a couple of months later Bette's people contacted my manager and she invited me to play in England with her for Queen Elizabeth. So we played for the Queen and I got to shake her hand. It was unbelievable. So those kinds of things all came from the YouTube video.

PP: Do you have a favorite Parrot Head moment?

J: I really love his whole show. But to me the best thing is that at the very end, for the encore, the band leaves the stage and he is there by himself, and a lot of times he doesn't even know what he's going to play. He'll have a few ideas but he'll just go up there and start playing and I love it because that's how he started out. It was just him and a guitar and singing his songs and telling stories. And back then he was playing for 20 or 30 people and now it's 20, 30, 50 thousand people and it's amazing to watch. And it makes me smile.

Berks County Parrot Head Club Celebrates its Ninth Birthday

Lou Mancano

Immediately following the biannual highway cleanup on October 23, 2011, a phlock of BCPHC Parrot Heads gathered at the Third and Spruce Café to celebrate how a pirate looks at nine - nine years of friendship, fun, and partying with a purpose to raise over \$312,000 for Berks County area charities.

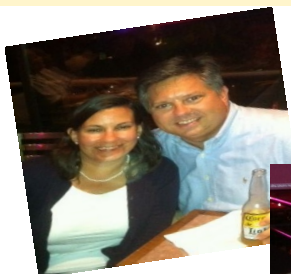
The ninth year anniversary party had a "Don't Stop the Carnival" tone about it as many of the attendees were preparing for the twentieth anniversary Meeting of the Minds in Key West, FL. The menu's entrees followed a Key West theme, and the drinks...well, most drinks have a Key West theme. Club members scarfed up Caribbean Christmas tickets and renewed their memberships for 2012.

Yes, there's been a lot to drink about since last year's birthday. Since then, the world has experienced the death of Osama bin Laden, the tragic and devastating tsunami in Japan, destructive tornadoes in the South, and many large scale protests. Egyptians protested until President Mubarak resigned; Libyans rebelled leading to the recent death of Moammar Gadhafi; and bands of protesters here in the U.S. are occupying "Wall Streets" throughout the nation.

Through all these CNN doomsday minutes, the BCPHC shines like a lantern in a lighthouse, focusing on the positives and guiding its members through parties, pub crawls, and concert events - all in the name of friendship and charity. What the next year will bring is anyone's guess, but I predict the tenth year of the Berks County Parrot Head Club will be its best year ever. Don't miss it!

Phledgling Phlockers: Welcome to the Club!!!

Tom and Pam Mennie



Bonnie MacLean

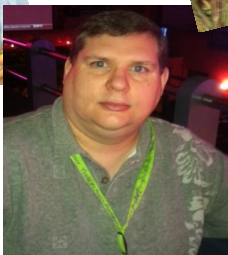


George MacLean



Shirley Riffle

Keith Major



Lisa De Frank



Trivia So You Think You Know Jimmy?

Rich Leiby

Can you guess how Jimmy responded to the following questions? The correct answers are based on responses he gave during a Q and A session at an appearance he made in 2008. Answers can be found on Parrot Poop Online.

1. What is the key to staying productive?
A. Take time out for yourself B. Keep your sense of humor C. Never worry about deadlines D. Pay attention to details
2. How did Jimmy say he manages to balance his home life with running a multimillion dollar empire?
A. Hire good people B. Put family first C. Vacation as much as you can D. Don't sweat the bottom line
3. Where was the real bar that inspired the song "Cheeseburger in Paradise"?
A. Road Town, Tortolla B. Jolly Harbour, Antigua C. Cudjoehead, Montserrat D. Pine Cay, Turks and Caicos
4. If Jimmy could perform with one (living) artist that he hasn't worked with yet, who would it be?
A. Bruce Springsteen B. Paul Simon C. Don McLean D. Gordon Lightfoot
5. What locale did Jimmy consider the "coolest" place he'd ever played?
A. Anguilla B. A resort in Africa C. An aircraft carrier D. A small bar in Marseilles
6. In what town was the mini-market that was the scene of the famous peanut butter theft located?
A. Gulf Shores, AL B. West Pensacola, FL C. Slidell, LA D. Hattiesburg, MS
7. Which of the following did Jimmy mention as one song he doesn't get to play in concert often enough?
A. Lone Palm B. Savannah, Fare You Well C. 12-volt man D. Pacing the Cage

Scoring:

6-7 You really DO know the man! 4-5 Certified Buffett devoteé 2-3 Man, he's tough to figure out 0-1 Jimmy who?

More photos from Meeting of the Minds



In 25 words (more) or less

Stars on the Water (Volunteers Committee) - Scott Kauffman While the Caribbean Christmas show is just around the corner, we also have our eye on our next big event - Cabin Fever Festival. There will be signup forms at the next two meetings if you'd like to help.

We Need More Junior Mints (Sponsorship Committee) - Sam Beam The Seafood Shanty will be the major sponsor for this year's Cabin Fever Festival. Next meeting Dec. 16th.

Parrot Poop (Newsletter Committee) - Rich Leiby We hope that everyone finds the new look of the Newsletter appealing and we invite ideas for new features. If you are willing to serve as a correspondent, please contact the staff.

Pfeeding Pfrenzy (Merchandise Committee) - Tina Shenk We are putting together the merchandise for the upcoming Cabin Fever Festival soon. Volunteers to help with the committee are welcomed!

Party With a Purpose (Events Committee) - Jodi Blatt Winter is on the way, but Events still has lots of partying with a purpose planned. Let's all come out for our holiday event and collect a ton of toys for the children of Berks County at our Toys for Tots happy hour on 12/9. Celebrate the season with your Parrot Head friends and bring unwrapped toys for the kids. January brings Cabin Fever Fest on 1/28.

Changes in Attitude (Charity Committee) - Gary Kraft Berks Encore will be our 2012 Cabin Fever Festival charity. Thanks to all who nominated charities!

If the Phone Doesn't Ring (Membership Committee) - Shawn Guevin It's membership renewal time again. See the form included in this Newsletter. If you don't renew by January 1st, you'll have to pay at the higher non-renewal rate.



Club Phun Phacts:

The upcoming Christmas in the Caribbean Concert will be the Club's fifth holiday show...

The event has raised more than \$30,000 for local charities so far.



Strange Birds

featuring

Cordie Kemmerer



Our strange bird this month was born and raised in Muhlenberg Township, Reading PA, and is the second youngest of nine children (she has four sisters and four brothers). Cordie has attended classes at the University of Phoenix and is presently Vice President of CTCE Federal Credit Union where she has worked for 29 years.

Some phun phacts about Cordie:

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song: *One Particular Harbour (hard to pick, there are so many favorites).*

Favorite line from a Jimmy Buffett song: *I'm growin' older but not up*

How many concerts have you been to and was one more memorable than the others?: *I have been to 9 Buffett concerts. The most memorable was the first one, seeing "The Buffett experience" and knowing that I'll never have nor will again feel that kind of excitement at any other concert.*

Have you read any of JB's books?: *Yes, A Pirate looks at Fifty, Where is Joe Merchant*

If all your Buffett music was lost or stolen, what would you listen to?: *Rock, Country*

Favorite food: *Seafood*

Favorite movie: *Liar, Liar*

Favorite restaurant: *Madeline's in Orwigsburg*

What do you like on your cheeseburger in paradise?: *I like mine with lettuce and tomato, Heinz 57 mayo and onion.*

Drink of choice: *Cosmopolitan*

How did you get involved in the BCPHC?: *I have a card with the year 2002 on it. I don't think the club was official yet so it was a long time ago.*

Any insights or inspirations to pass on?: *The club truly lives "Party with a Purpose."*

Where the heck is Margaritaville?: *Anywhere there are palm trees, sun, sand, music, family and friends.*

Membership/Renewal Form

Berks County Parrot Head Club



IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ!!!

It's renewal time again! Current memberships will expire on December 31, 2011. Rates will be increasing in 2012, so send in your renewal now! In order keep information current, all payments must be accompanied by a completed renewal form. Additional forms are available online at www.berkscountyphc.org

Membership Application

(Until 12/31/11) Single (\$20) Couple (\$30) Additional Family Member under 21 yrs. old (\$5/person)

(After 1/1/12) Single (\$30) Couple (\$40)

Member Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Phone: () _____

Phone: () _____

Birthdate: __/__/__

Birthdate: __/__/__

City, State & Zip: _____

Additional family member names and birthdates: _____

Would you be interested in joining a committee? Yes (which committee) _____

How did you hear about the Club? _____

How long have you been a Jimmy Buffett fan? _____

What is your favorite Jimmy Buffett song? _____

Make checks payable to: Berks County Parrot Head Club

Mail to: P.O. Box 6167

Wyomissing, PA 19610

Visit us on the Web - www.BerksCountyPHC.org



Berks County Parrot Head Club
P.O. Box 6167
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Upcoming events for 2011-2012

December 9th Toys for Tots at Third and Spruce 6-9PM

December 17th Caribbean Christmas Miller Center, Reading, PA 2:00PM

January 28th Cabin Fever Festival Growne Plaza, 7:00PM

It's Five
O'Clock
Somewhere

