

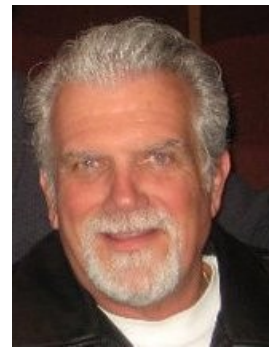


HELLO from the President's Perch

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By the time this edition arrives, we will be almost through what has been a mild winter. I hope all of our Parrot Head members survived the winter and are ready to fly into some sunny warm weather. Things were certainly not mild or cold in our Berks County Parrot Head Club. In December we hosted another successful Toys for Tots party at the Spruce and delivered more toys and cash to the Marines than any prior year. Things heated up even more with the 4th annual Christmas show at the Miller Center on December 17th. The Club Trini band (Michael Utley and Robert Greenidge) was enjoyed by all. Jimmy and the Parrots entertained almost 200 members and guests at the after party (in the Viva lounge) that included a buffet and a few drinks. Through your efforts and your support of the show we raised \$14,000 for Crime Alert Berks.



Winter Cabin Fever was next, and Berks Encore was the chosen charity this year. In our efforts to make each event better than the one before, we changed a few things from 2011. Thanks to the great support from Crowne Plaza and general manager Craig Poole, we held the event on a Saturday Night for the first time. We also brought a new band (Mango Men) to this year's event and they were a big hit with the crowd. As of press time, we do not have a final dollar total but I think we will all be proud when we present the big check at the April 3rd meeting.

Over the winter we have added several new members and as your President I extend an invitation to meet each of you. Please find time after the April meeting to see me and introduce yourself and your significant other. We want members to be involved in the club and participate with club activities and on committees. I will help you find the committee that best suits your interests. Our club will be 10 years old in 2012 and new ideas and new blood is always welcome!

Finally, thanks to all of you for your commitment to and love of our Berks County Parrot Head family. The sympathy that you blessed me and my family with after the passing of my father was outstanding. The kind words, the many cards, and the contributions in dad's name to the Angel Fund will live in my heart and memory forever. Thanks so much. You truly are special birds and so loved by your President.

Denny



2011 Christmas in the Caribbean

Mike Kerper

Parrot Heads and other concert goers had a lovely time at the pre-show dinner and cocktail party at the nearby Peanut Bar before the phlock migrated west to RACC's Miller Center for what proved to be an amazing evening! Jimmy and the Parrots made the voyage to Reading once again to kick start the night! With their typical high energy performance and goofy on stage antics, they really revved up the crowd up for what was to follow.

For the third straight year, the one and only Nadirah Shakoor wowed the audience with her perfect mix of sweet and spice! Joined on stage by the always classy Michael Utley and BCPHC Christmas Show first-timer Robert Greenidge, the show was no less than legendary. With many of us disappointed by the unfortunate breakup of the prior year's opening act, *Plenty Problems*, Robert quenched the attendees' thirst for the tropical ring of a steel pan. Just a few songs into the main event, Nadirah made the executive decision to scrap the set list and put Club Trini on the spot with requests from the audience.

Part way through the show, Nadirah decided to play "Santa's Little Helper" and take a trip through the crowd asking "What do YOU want for Christmas?". She received some Miss America-esque responses like "world peace" and patriotic responses like "all of our troops safely on home soil." She even received some responses from true dreamers! A Christmas Show veteran identified by Nadirah as "Officer Cahill" wished for the Steelers to win the Super Bowl. (Looks like Officer Cahill must have been on the naughty list.)



The 2011 show had Coral Reefers belting out songs from a myriad of genres— from traditional holiday tunes to Bob Marley to a song about an alternative lifestyle reindeer named Stephon. This show had it all!



The countless hours of planning this event surely paid off. At the BCPHC monthly meeting in February, Crime Alert Berks was presented with a check for \$14,000, up significantly from \$8000 in 2009. This brings the BCPHC donations to a cumulative total of over \$90,000! A special thanks goes out of all of the volunteers who made this event happen!

Photographs courtesy of Emil Schanzenbach

Christmas in the Caribbean: Recalling the After-party

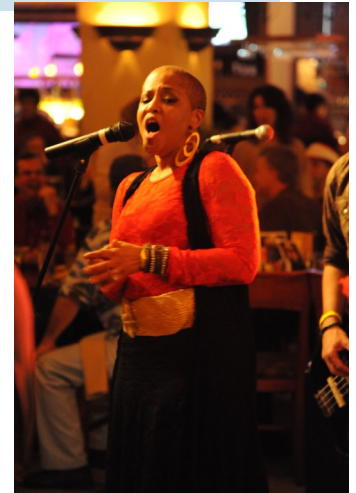
Chuck Dugan

When the Caribbean Christmas show ended, the club gathered at Viva for an after-party where everyone could relax and enjoy Nadirah, Robert, and Michael's company. There was a buffet featuring an assortment of paninis, flatbread pizzas, sliders, and even four-cheese lasagna included with the price of admission. Some members were lucky enough to be waiting in the food line with the stars of the show!



Jimmy and the Parrots performed and, as usual, gave the audience a first-rate performance that had folks up on their feet all night. Nadirah and Michael joined them for several songs, including a few of Jimmy M's own compositions, and they really seemed to enjoy getting up there to sing and play for the club members, guests, and everyone who happened to be at Viva that night. Nadirah's incredible voice rang out and filled the dining area, and Michael Utley looked to be at home behind the keyboard. The three members of the Coral Reefer Band are truly amazing and talented performers who appear to really enjoy spending time with their fans.

I had a great time and hope that there are many more nights like this in the future.



Photography courtesy of Emil Schanzenbach

I Think I Got CABIN FEVER!!!!

Duane Cahill

Take a dreary January Saturday in Berks County, add a splash of trop rock, a pinch of good food and maybe just a wee smidgen of adult beverages. Mix them together with some Parrot Heads looking to get out for a good cause, and you have all the makings of the BCPHC's Cabin Fever Festival.



This year's party was sponsored by the new Seafood Shanty in Broadcasting Square Mall, and held for the first time at the Crowne Plaza in Wyomissing. We filled the ballroom with music, laughter, and open wallets.

The evening's entertainment was provided by the Mango Men, a Philadelphia band that has been taking audiences on a musical adventure to the Island of Margaritaville for years. The band played several of our Buffett favorites, but also managed to get the crowd rocking with tunes from Springsteen, Zac Brown, Toby Keith and even some of their own original music. To give the band a local flavor, club members Tom Mennie and Deb Motika took the stage with guitars to rock the house!

The party was moved for the first time this year to Saturday evening instead of Sunday, and there were an awful lot of first-timers in the room – some new Parrot Heads, some folks associated with the charity, and even one couple who “just saw the billboard and showed up”!

Every year, this one-of-a-kind event seems to get better, and it's just the boost we need to see past the cold and realize the spring is just around the corner.



“I wish that summer could stay on for one more hour—I wish that summer sun would last the whole year on.”

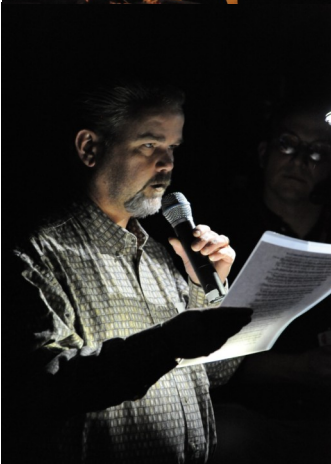
—Lyrics from the song “Don't Forget the Sun” (Explorer's Club)

Caribbean
Christmas

Before-
and
Afterparty



2011



Photographs courtesy of Emil Schanzenbach

Quick Licks w/Robert Greenidge

Tracey Lutz



For Robert Greenidge, born and raised on the island of Trinidad, steel drums were as common a musical instrument as pianos are here in the United States. That instrument turned out to be, as Robert puts it, his “Magic Carpet”—one that has taken him on trips around the world to play for thousands of appreciative audiences. As a member of Club Trini, Greenidge performed in Reading at Jazz Fest in 2003 and has been a returning to our county ever since. We were so happy to welcome “Bobby G.” back to Berks County for our Christmas in the Caribbean show this year. As we sat and talked about music, Robert’s amazing gift of perfect pitch was always at hand.

PP : You have played at the White House, The Tonight Show and many more. Did you find any of them to be intimidating?

RG: Well first of all I was very happy to do them all. Being asked to play in the White House for President Clinton was a great honor. We have done Jay Leno as well as the David Letterman show and a few others when we have a new CD we go out and promote it. NBC was a big one. I enjoy doing those things. It’s nothing really to get nervous about, it’s just about being happy and letting the public see what you are doing.

PP : I imagine playing the White House is very different from a Jimmy Buffett concert . Was it very formal when you went there?

RG: Well actually I have been to the White House on a couple of occasions. One big one was with Jimmy (Buffett) for President Clinton’s Birthday, and yes he did jump up and play the saxophone. His wife played tambourine. It was a great experience.

PP: You’ve been playing since you were very young.

RG: Yes, I’ve been playing since around the age of 10 or 11. I’m from Trinidad and I have a big steel drum band there (“The Desperados”) that I perform with and do some arrangements for. I brought Jimmy down to hear them during Carnival time and he comes back every now and then. He might be back this year – who knows.

PP: What changes have you seen to Carnival since you were growing up on Trinidad to today?

RG: Well I only took two years off in all that time. My take is mostly through the music. I have seen the bands go bigger and bigger in size and the instruments get better sound. But the steel drum is kind of hard to tune. Seeing someone tune them coming from 1965 through today, it’s getting better and better all the time. And the material is much better.

PP: When you were growing up did you ever think that you would travel the world?

RG: No, I didn’t think so. But I stuck with it and through my steel drum it’s taken me all over the world. It’s been good transportation, a good thing to see the world with. I never leave home without my magic carpet, my magic drums. I have gone to marimbas and vibraphones and I always come back. I just love the sound of my steel drum.

———So do we, Robert! Thank you, and we hope to see you again next year!



Toys for Tots

Lou Mancano

Each year, Toys for Tots delivers a message of hope to less fortunate children throughout the U.S. and helps them to experience the joy of Christmas. True to their respective missions, the Berks County Parrot Head Club and the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program teamed up at 3rd and Spruce on Friday December 9th, 2011 to collect new, unwrapped toys for needy children. The BCPHC was determined to fill "Santa's canoe" and did not disappoint. Dressed in holiday attire and contest-worthy ugly sweaters, club members again exceeded expectations and filled the Spruce's second floor entrance area with toys for all ages.

Club members ate, drank, and enjoyed one another's company the entire evening. The event was made extra special by the presence of Marines who mingled with our club. As we shook hands, we thanked them for their service to our great nation and, of course, bought them a beverage or two. Before the night came to a close, the group loaded a truck with our donated toys and hauled them away to "Santa's canoe," a magical place docked somewhere near Christmas Island.

How'd ya like to stay up late, like the islanders do?
 Wait for Santa to sail in with your presents in a canoe.
 If you ever spend Christmas on Christmas Island
 You will never stray, for everyday
 Your Christmas dreams come true.

In Memoriam

Remembering "Hops" Lorah

The Berks County Parrot Head Club sadly bid farewell to the club's patriarch with the passing of Hops Lorah in January. When not traveling with friends, he could always be found at the big round table in the corner of the Spruce for club meetings. One of his favorite club activities was dressing up like a pirate for parades and pub crawls. Many of us will remember his and Barbara's first trip to Meeting of the Minds in 2010 as they managed to pack more into that trip than most of the rest of us did. Sail on, Hops.

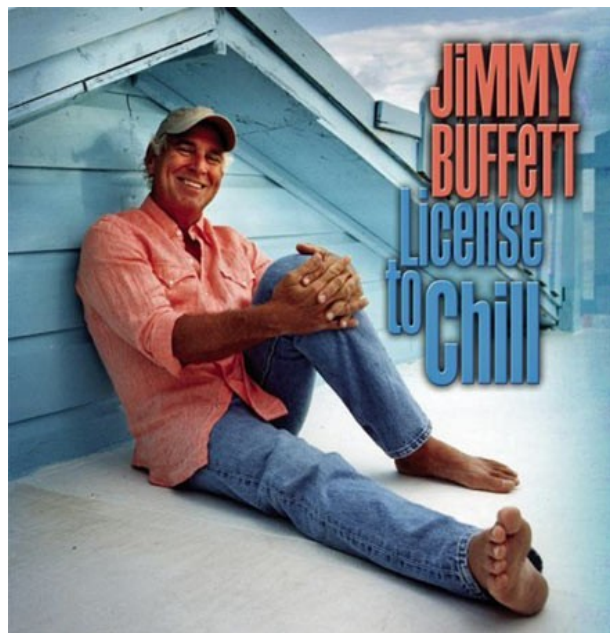
What is the first thing that hits you when you pick up a Jimmy Buffett CD? It isn't the music (you have to put the CD in a player for that).....it's the album cover. Over the years, Jimmy's album covers have featured photography, artwork, and all sorts of graphics including maps and calligraphy.

Trivia : Getting the Picture!

Rich Leiby

► **Your mission:** All of the objects listed in the left-hand column can be found (either in photograph or drawing form) on one of the albums listed in the right-hand column. See how many you can match up correctly without peeking. As always (just to be mean) there are two more albums than objects, so beware.

bottle of beer	A1A
drive-in movie parking lot	Barometer soup
elephant	Beach House on the Moon
gazebo	Coconut Telegraph
hammock	Far Side of the World
life preserver (ring)	Hot Water
pair of white boots	Last Mango in Paris
shipwreck	Living and Dying in ¾ time
suitcase	Off to See the Lizard
swiss Army knife	One Particular Harbour
tall-masted ship	Riddles in the Sand
parrot	Songs you Know By Heart
	Take the Weather with You
	White Sport Coat/ PinkCrustacean
	Volcano



Scoring:

10-12 Very observant! 7-9 You have a good eye for Buffett! 4-6 Just listens to the music 0-3 Art? What art?



Scenes from Cabin Fever!

Phun Phacts:

Before you go shooting holes in your freezer, consider that.....

*...this year's Cabin Fever Festival was the **10th one** the Club has held.*

-and-

*...this event alone has produced charitable donations totaling over **\$92,000.***



Photographs courtesy of Emil Schanzenbach

Phledgling Phlockers: Welcome to the Club!!!



Deb Dreibelbis



Jackson Kraft



Strange Birds

featuring **Deb Motika**



Our strange bird this month was born and raised in Schuylkill county. Besides her two children, Deb's biggest claim to fame is that she is enshrined in Elizabethtown College's Athletics Hall of Fame for basketball. She worked at St. Joseph's Hospital for 33 years before taking a job as Director of Operations at Drugscan Laboratory in Warminster.

Some phun phacts about Deb:

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song : *A Pirate Looks at Forty*

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song line: *If I couldn't laugh I just would go insane (I feel so sorry for the people who cannot find humor in every day life - I get rejuvenated by it although sometimes I admit I do laugh at people instead of with them. Nothing like a good trip or some errant gas to get me a giggling.)*

Favorite place to be while listening to troprock music: *I often slip in a Buffett CD while driving, especially when traffic gets a bit much to handle, gotta get rid of that road rage, my friends.*

How many concerts have you been to and was one more memorable than the others?: *Since I have only been a Parrothead for about four years, I have been to three so far, each one getting better than the last thanks to the friends I have made who just keep raising the bar!*

If all your Buffett music was lost or stolen, what would you listen to?: *I love old blues records, Buddy Guy, RL Burnside, B.B. King.*

Favorite food: *Nothing like a plateful of spaghetti and meatballs to nourish me.*

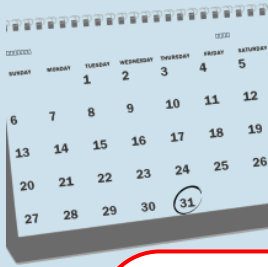
Favorite movie: *I am a total Robert DeNiro and Al Pacino junkie - and I can't pick just one so it has to be The Godfather Trilogy, though Scent of a Woman and Goodfellas are right up there.*

Drink of choice: *A bottle of Napa Valley Merlot definitely rocks my world and my head the next day when the girls and I overdo it.....Ladies???? what do you say???*

How did you get involved in the BCPHC?: *I believe it was four years ago when some friends of mine from New Jersey invited me to Key West on Vacation to some bizarre thing called Meeting of the Minds. One corollary was that I had to become a member of a local Parrot head organization. I was welcomed with open arms by Gary and Janice Kraft. The rest is history.*

Any insights or inspirations to pass on?: *Do one thing every day that makes you happy and don't ever get into a fight you have no chance of winning.*

Where the heck is Margaritaville?: *In my aging mind, baby!*



There's Trouble on the Horizon

Upcoming Events!

March 29th	Happy Hour at the Railroad House	6-9PM
April 28th	Pub Crawl !	Details TBA
May 18th	Golf Outing at Willow Hollow GC	
June 26	Buffett night at Reading Phillies	
July 21	Summer Daze at the Liederkrantz	

Mark your calendars!!!! Check the club website for more information!

Committee Updates

In 25 words (more) or less

Stars on the Water (Volunteers Committee) - Scott Kauffman I just want to say "Thank You" to all of the volunteers that this organization has to help make each & every event so successful. Without you, we would never be able to raise the amounts of money that we do to help the charities that we have chosen. Thanks again for your time commitments.

We Need More Junior Mints (Sponsorship Committee) - Sam Beam If anyone has any suggestions about who we should contact for sponsors, please let me know!

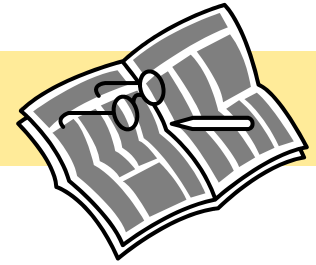
Parrot Poop (Newsletter Committee) - Rich Leiby We welcome ideas for new columns and invite everyone to volunteer to write for us!!! Contact any of the team if you are interested!

Pfeeding Pfenzy (Merchandise Committee) - Tina Shenk Our committee has lots of fun organizing and shopping for great merchandise. Already we are working on our ideas for the next Fundraiser! Thanks to everyone who donates and bids on our great auction items. Get involved and join the Pheeding Phrenzy!

Party With a Purpose (Events Committee) - Jodi Blatt Winter months are dwindling so let's get ready for spring events! Pub Crawl tickets still available at \$25, this will be another fun-filled day. Email Jodi at meandmyboz@aol.com for tickets. Don't forget to get your foursome together for the golf outing!

Changes in Attitude (Charity Committee) - Gary Kraft The Charity Committee has chosen two worthy charities for our coming events. We encourage your support of both Berks County Association for the Blind and The Children's Home of Reading.

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



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

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

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

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

<http://www.berkscountyphc.org>



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