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From the President's Perch

Merry Christmas to everyone, and I wish you a wonderful

holiday season. Yes, I still say Merry Christmas and can't even imagine that that may offend someone! The world sure has become a bit crazy. We Need More Parrot Heads!



Christmas is a time of celebration, joy, and forgiveness. We all need some of each in our lives. Wherever you are traveling this holiday season or staying at home, let the joy and celebration of Christmas fill your hearts and let the memories of Christmas past make you smile.

Giving is also a big part of the holiday season and we BCPHC members know all about giving. In fact, all we do is give. It is so rewarding for me to see so many wonderful people give of their time and energy to helping others. Whatever your commitment level, it is appreciated by our local charities and the community. We all know Jimmy B. wants us to "party with a purpose" but our club takes it to another level. I hope each member finds peace and happiness in all that we do to make someone else's life a little better.

Our Berks County Parrot Head Club has many things to celebrate as we look back on the past year. Parades and happy hours were only two of many successful events that were also fun for all who participated. We also raised lots of money for Berks County charities and for our community. The look of gratification on the faces of our charities as they accept the big check is priceless. For a more full account, please read Tim Kraft's article recapping a successful year.

Finally, a special thanks goes to our military members who proudly served. Take a few moments to remember the wounded warriors and those who paid the ultimate price by sacrificing their lives protecting the freedoms we all enjoy. It is truly a blessing to live in the USA, the greatest country of all.

My thanks go to all, and I am grateful to have you as my friends. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May all of your dreams come true.

The Prez,

Denny Lorah

Crime Alert Berks Dinner Dance

Denny Lorah

On Saturday, November 30th, our Berks County Parrot Head Club teamed up with Crime Alert

Berks County for a special event. After listening to input from both Crime Alert Berks and our members, what had in the past been a Christmas Concert was transformed this year into a dinner dance. Thanks to Craig Poole and his ceaseless desire to help everyone, the Crowne Plaza provided the perfect location for the party. The staff prepared a delicious meal of beef, turkey and ham at carving stations, including an assortment of side dishes. Saucony Creek brewery in Kutztown supplied some of the beer for the night and several of their brews were crowd favorites. Other drink stations provided everyone with their favorite beverages.



Crime Alert stepped up and provided ten sponsors for the event who all came out to enjoy the festivities. The band "Junior's Farm" started off the evening by performing their own brand of classic rock and roll. Jimmy and the Parrots rocked out the house late into the evening, as they do so well.

The crowd quickly filled the dance floor and continued until

Jimmy, Hal, Big Daddy and Lance played the final tune for the evening.

The marines were in attendance early in the evening and were recognized for their service to our country and for the Toys for Tots program. Attendees who bought a toy were given a free drink ticket. Our new federal



judge, Jeff Schmehl, was in the crowd of 250 people and said a few words. Chief Jeff Biehl from the Wyomissing Police Department and Chief Paul Stolz from the Caernarvon Police Department also spoke about the service Crime Alert Berks provides to help law enforcement solve crimes. I noted that the Crime Alert pays out an average of \$1,000 a week for tips. A representative from Mary's Shelter also came on stage to discuss their charity and asked the crowd to come out and support the upcoming Cabin Fever Party.

Many thanks go out to BCPHC club members that worked hard before the event and those who stepped up at the event to make it the rousing success that it turned out to be. Many heartfelt thanks also

go to those of you who supported the event by attending. We did it in true parrot head fashion and we partied well past midnight. The smiles on everyone's faces were a testament to the great time had by all at our first dinner dance.



HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

"No Bones About It"

lou Mancano



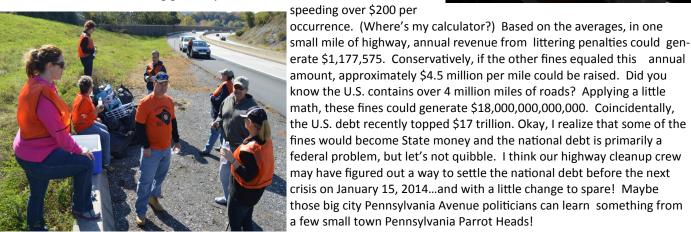
On Sunday October 20, 2013, ten environmentally aware BCPHC

Parrot Heads met at the 3rd and Spruce parking lot and headed to the Club's mile-long stretch of Route 222 to help keep America beautiful. Did you know that each year 51.2 billion pieces of litter are left on U.S. roadways, equaling 6,729 pieces per mile? Since our club cleans up this area twice a year, let's divide that by two. Hmmm, my calculator tells me that each of the 10 orange-vested, garbage bag-carrying Parrot Head needed to pick up 336.45 pieces of trash to make our adopted highway spotless.

This bare bones crew got to work and encountered more than its usual array of bottles, cans, cardboard, tire fragments, plastic bags, food containers, and cigarette butts. On this cool October day, the crew unfortunately discovered the final resting places of three deer and a turtle, and at various sites, uncovered many "bare bones"- a jaw, several spinal bones, two pelvises, and the skull of an unidentifiable non-human vertebrate victim. Why so many

carcasses? In my estimate, of all the empty containers, half had contained beer, and the remainder highly-caffeinated energy drinks. Judging by the speed of the daytime drivers, energy drinks were the drink of choice of daylight passers-by; judging by the fate of the animals, beer was the beverage of choice at night. This got me thinking!

Every American is aware that our nation recently had been in a battle over raising the debt ceiling. Political affiliations aside, perhaps enforcing speeding, drunk driving, and littering laws nationwide could balance the budget and save the lives of people and animals. In Pennsylvania, fines for littering range from \$50 to \$300; drunk driving generally between \$300 and \$5,000; and





Parade Season 2013

Shirley Riffle



Ohnton, October 19th. The big question: Is it going to rain? It really didn't matter as more than forty of us donned our pirate garb and climbed aboard the Leaky Tiki. Not many pirate ships have such a great crew as we did that night.

Marilyn and Bob supplied munchies and they definitely hit the spot before setting sail. Did someone say candy? Oh yes, we certainly were stocked that night with an abundant supply. After opening all the boxes and filling the pails we were ready to set sail. Some pirates stayed on board while the others walked and handed out the loot. There were young, old, and little pirates galore raising their voices to the best of Jimmy Buffett and dancing down the streets of Mohnton.



Rain? A little drizzle now and then didn't dampen our pirate spirit. Cheers from the crowds lining the streets kept us dancing and singing louder as we sailed to the "Mohnton Navy Yard." The end was in sight as we approached the marina (the Italian restaurant, Mangia) and prepared to dock our ship. Rain? Oh yes, the pirate gods were kind and waited until we had arrived before the sky opened with a torrential downpour, forcing many pirates to run for cover into the restaurant. The pizza and beer tasted mighty good after our successful voyage on the open waters of Mohnton. Many thanks to all who participated and those of you who readied the ship for the voyage and tucked her back home again to sail another day. Also a great big thank you to the pirate who supplied us with a hearty feast that night. Rain? Yes, but it didn't affect the pirates of the Leaky Tiki at all.

We didn't even have a chance to hang up our swords and eye patches when we were off again to sail another sea, this time in Hamburg at the King Frost Parade on October 26th. The pirates and wenches came from all over the place once again to ride the magnificent ship in all our pirate glory. Before the parade, as we readied the vessel for the trip, Marilyn prepared a feast for all the pirate folks. A table was set up in the street with all kinds of delicious treats from meat and cheese to cookies, nuts, and fruit. Bryan even supplied the chilly pirates with a heater to warm us up for the festivities. Beads??? Oh yes, we certainly did have beads; 32,000 of them to be precise. The streets of Hamburg were lined with people of all ages all clamoring for some of those beads from the pirates who were strolling the street that night. Some of us were even "flashed" by a few parade goers in anticipation of the fine jewels we were carrying.

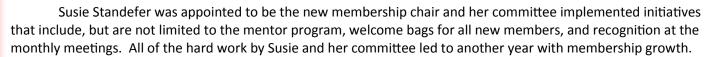
As we traveled the route, we were welcomed by loud applause and many cheers from the crowds who couldn't help singing and dancing to the tunes of Jimmy Buffett playing loudly from the ship. We were spectacular (as we always are) and deemed the "crowd favorite" the next day as a video of our ship appeared on Facebook. Then, traveling on the ship after the parade, we disembarked at the American House where we were treated to a delicious selection of hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries, and beverages. It all tasted so good after our long voyage. The night was a huge success for sure as we won first place and a \$300 check for our club, not to mention having a fabulous time. To those of you who didn't set sail with us that evening, I hope you join can join us next time!

2013 - Year in Review

Tim Kraft, Treasurer

Here what proved to be a challenging 2013 for the Board and its members, the

Board felt it was important to recap all of the positive things that happened over the past year after the new Board took over in January. A lot of good came out of the members' efforts and now is the time to celebrate all that was accomplished this year:



Representatives from the club attended the Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting and came away with two main ideas. 1) Clubs all over the region are struggling with how to make the point system have meaning again. Interest in ordering Buffett tickets through the club has been dwindling for the past few years. 2) The Regional Charter strongly recommended the implementation of a Hold Harmless agreement as well as obtaining Directors and Officers' Insurance. BCPHC already had the insurance policy in place, and the Board will have a Hold Harmless Agreement in place moving forward.

The Marketing Committee was created in January with Debbie Hartranft nominated and approved as chair. The objective of the new committee is to promote our club and all of its activities. This committee has provided leadership and responsibility for the website and any other social media associated with BCPHC. The Marketing Committee was eventually combined with the Events Committee based on feedback from members within the Events Committee.

We also had several successful events during the year including the parades, two highway clean-ups, Cabin Fever (\$14,000 was raised for Opportunity House), Golf Outing (approximately \$11,000 was raised for the Angel Foundation) and Parrotdaze (\$23,500 was raised for Berks Women in Crisis). With the help of the Railroad House, 2013 has proved to be the highest fundraising year to date.

As a result of the changes in the golf outing format, we now have a steady funding stream for the Angel fund. When the Angel Foundation Committee set up guidelines, it was unsure how it would be funded long term. The Angel Fund Committee will be meeting to tweak the parameters in 2014 so that more can benefit from the fund.

Crime Alert Holiday Show took on a different format this year based on feedback from the membership. Your board is always willing to take on new challenges and are constantly challenging whether we can improve any of the events. A good time was had by all who attended, and the Board will work to continually improve this and all events.

Several committee heads met with the board and we had very positive feedback. We will continue this process into 2014. As is the policy with PHIP, we will not address any correspondence that is done anonymously, but we gladly invite any inquiries from members who are willing to attach their name to it.

All of the events above have helped to shape the club as it is today. As always, the Board welcomes the feedback from any and all members and we look forward to another eventful year in 2014. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday from your club's officers.



Quick Licks with

JAMES "SUNNY JIM" WHITE



Tracey Lutz

unny Jim most definitely enjoys "Life in the Laidback

Lane," and between giving out hugs and hellos to what seemed like, everyone, he gave me a few moments between host duties at Music on the Bay in Tampa. He discovered the sunny tropical life when as a temporary band member he had the opportunity to travel to Grand Cayman. When the band left, he stayed and became the artist-in-residence at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman for about twelve years.

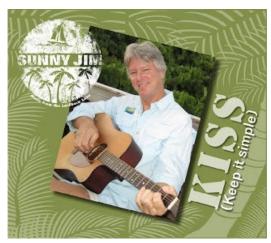
Ten-time Trop Rock Music Association award winner and the 2013 "Entertainer of the Year," Sunny Jim is the affable host of many

Parrot Head events. One that is a "must see" is during the annual MOTM in Key West where Sunny Jim hosts the Sunday Songwriters Showcase at Blue Heaven Restaurant.

James says he writes what he knows. I know that "Blame it on the Rum" is one of my personal favorites – cause it's true!

PP: Can you define a Parrot Head?

JW – Well, I think the meaning has changed over the years. Initially Parrot Heads were the people who wore the loud tropical shirts and parrotphinalia. And they were die-hard Jimmy Buffett fans like the Dead Heads. But then it became more about the tropical laid back lifestyle. So the Parrot Head Clubs have embraced that and what started out as being only about Jimmy Buffett, turned into being about Trop Rock Music. I've seen it; I've been doing this since 1989. And it's great. There have been a whole lot of people doing Buffett style stuff, but it's more than that. Of course he is the Grand Daddy, the guy who made it famous.



Quick Licks with SUNNY JIM (cont.)

PP: How does playing Trop Rock in the Caribbean compare to playing a Parrot Head event on the Main Land?

JW – A Parrot Head event is a group of people focused on having a good time and they're intent on doing that. In the Caribbean, people are having a good time but not partying as hard. A Parrot Head event is more about the music.



PP: Do you ever have time off?

JW – Not really, that's why there are two boats and a dingy in my backyard in serious need of work. But I love working on old boats when I get the chance.

PP: How do you mix work, travel and family?

JW – My twin daughters were born prematurely. They had to be delivered in Houston, but we were living in Cayman, and we were at risk of losing both of them. I flew back and forth to Houston after they were born because the girls weren't able to come to Grand Cayman until they were 7 months old and everything was okay. I worked at the Hyatt until they were 8 years old. I was home every night and on weekends and it was a great way to raise kids. When we moved state side I traveled a lot with Parrot Head Clubs. But it was our normal. Now that they are turning 21, my wife comes with me a lot. I still love all of it. Parrot Heads are really a great bunch of people and I'm really proud to be a part of it.

You can learn more about Sunny Jim on his website, www.sunnyjim.com



Phun Phact:

Our recent \$23,500 donation to Berks Women in Crisis was the second highest single-event donation the Club has made in its history. Well done everyone!



<u>Trivia</u>:

Pirates, Buccaneers, or what?



Lou Mancano

\mathcal{E} ach year, September 19th is "Talk Like a Pirate" Day. Arrrrgh! You can dress like a pirate and talk like a pirate, bu			
how much do you know about pirates?			
1. Pirates wore pierced earrings because they believed:			
a. They would appear more frightening b. They would improve their eyesight			
c. They could hide gold in them d. They would protect their hearing			
2. Legend has it that the first pirate to carry a parrot on his shoulder was named:			
a. Black Tooth McPhee b. Calico Jack c. Thomas Jones d. Black Bellamy			
3. The word buccaneer is now synonymous with a 17th Century West Indies pirate. What did the word "buccaneer" originally mean?			
a. Someone who engages in illegal politics b. Someone who sails a ship			
c. Someone who dries and preserves meat d. Someone who braids their hair			
4. Which of these female pirates once commanded her own ship?			
a. Anne Bonny b. Grace O'Malley c. Mary Reed d. Jean Laffite			
5. Blackbeard was a large Englishman named Edward Teach. He struck fear into his enemies during battle by doing what?			
a. Wearing horns on his head to resemble the devil b. Routinely fighting with a sword in each hand			
c. Tying a lit torch onto his sword d. Weaving hemp into his beard and lighting it on fire			
6. Common punishments for pirates who did not obey the ships' rules were all but which one?			
a. Walking the plank b. Being whipped c. Being marooned on a deserted island d. Thrown overboard tied to a rope			
7. Piracy was common in the 1700s because:			
a. Gold was so plentiful and easy to steal b. It was not honorable for sailors to serve in the military			
c. Honest work for sailors was very difficult to come by d. Chicks back then digged pirates			
8. Pirates usually did not bury their treasure because:			
a. Other pirates would steal it b. Most of their stolen treasures were perishable foods and fabrics			
c. They had no way of finding it later d. The Captain would keep most of it so there was little to bury			
9. The Jolly Roger pirate flag was:			
a. Usually flown upside-down b. typically blue c. decorated with a skull and crossbones d. usually a black flag with no design			

10. Most pirating happened during which years:

a. Between 1450 and 1490 b. Between 1690 and 1720 c. Between 1780 and 1810 d. Between 1991 and 2013

9-10 Aye, Captain! 5-6 Yeoman! 0-4 Swab that deck !!! **Scoring:** 7-8 First mate!



Committee updates 25 words (more) or less

Stars on the Water (Volunteers Committee) - Scott Kauffman Our next event is our Cabin Fever Party in February. Please complete the sign-up forms at our meetings or email me if you are interested in helping.

Parrot Poop (Newsletter Committee) - Rich Leiby Writers, proofreaders, and photos are always welcome!

Pfeeding Pfrenzy (Merchandise Committee) - Tina Shenk We are organizing items for the raffle baskets and auction items. Merchandise donations are always appreciated and make the baskets even more special!

Changes in Attitude (Charity Committee) - Gary Kraft Our February Cabin Fever Event will support Mary's Shelter, and the Committee has selected Junior Achievement of Berks County and Lehigh Valley as our 2014 Summer Daze charity. Thanks to those submitted nominations!

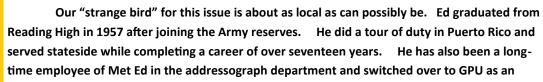
If the Phone Doesn't Ring (Membership Committee) - Susan Standefer We now have 229 members. December is the last month for renewal discount for members. January renewal will be back to the regular price. We still need mentor volunteers.

We aren't famous—yet (Marketing Committee) - Debbie Hartranft The committee is reviewing the survey results, working on ways to increase publicity for the Cabin Fever event, and planning some fun monthly gettogethers for 2014!



Strange Birds

featuring **Ed Kenney**



analyst, security specialist, and maintenance worker. Now happily retired, Ed likes to paint, do wood working, fish, and ski.

Ed has one daughter and three step-daughters, and is kept busy by his two grandkids, Patrick and Sarah.

Some phun phacts about Ed:

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song: A Pirate Looks at Forty

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song line: "Yes, I am a pirate!"

Favorite place to be while listening to troprock music: On board the "Leaky Tiki," our pirate ship float!

How many concerts have you been to and was one more memorable than the others?: I haven't been to any.

If all your Buffett music was lost or stolen, what would you listen to?: Anything country and western.

Favorite coral refer, other than Jimmy: Doyle Grisham

Favorite food: Steak and corn.

Favorite movie: All the Harry Potter movies, and Nim's Island.

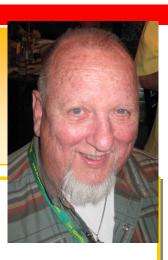
Favorite restaurant: Texas Road House.

Drink of choice: Beer or whiskey sours.

How did you get involved in the BCPHC?: Through my friends, Bob and Laura Trewella. They were going to a meeting one night, and they asked me to go along, so I did. That's where I met Bob and Marilyn, and we started talking about the float, and I've been working on it ever since.

What's on your bucket list?: To return to Austria and Switzerland in Spring where I used to ski with the Flying Dutchmen Ski Club. I used to ski a lot out west here in the U.S. and all over the country and in Canada.....I've been skiing over twenty years.

Any insights or inspirations to pass on?: When the going gets tough, the tough get going.





Berks County Parrot Head Club

Membership Renewal

www.berkscountyphc.org

The Berks County Parrot Head Club was established on October 1, 2002. Over the years, we have raised more than \$400,000 for various Berks County area charities. Thank you for your continued support of the club!

Membership Renewal Application

Individual (\$20) Couple ((\$30) Today's Date
Member Name #1:	Member Name #2:
Email:	Email:
List any changes below:	List any changes below:
Street address:	Street address:
City, State & Zip:	City, State & Zip:
Phone: ()	Phone: ()
Additional family member names <u>and</u> birthdates: (Under 21 year	s of age)
Any interest in joining a club committee?Yes	No
If yes, please check the committees you are interested in.	
MembershipMarketingSponsor	shipVolunteersMerchandiseNewsletter
To renew by mail, send us this completed form, along with a c	heck, to:

Berks County Parrot Head Club (BCPHC), PO Box 6167, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Note: This contribution is not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

It is the intention of the Berks County Parrot Head Club (BCPHC) to provide social and charitable activities for the enjoyment and benefit of all our members, guests, hosts and charities. All members of the organization shall be required to treat fellow members, guests and hosts and their personal property with respect. Members also agree to abide by all local, state and federal laws (including but not limited to) governing misuse of personal privileges, personal property and controlled substances. Members of the BCPHC, by virtue of their membership agreement, agree to demonstrate personal responsibility for their words, actions and deeds and not to exhibit behaviors that are harmful to themselves and other members, guests and hosts or their personal property. We seek to provide a pleasant atmosphere in which to share our common love of the music and tales of Jimmy Buffett and to further the charitable ideals that we seek to uphold. BCPHC will not condone behavior contrary to our mission nor that which we feel is harmful or injurious to others. By virtue of your membership in the "Berks County Parrot Head Club" you agree to "Party with a Purpose" in a most responsible fashion! The undersigned is requesting membership renewal in the Berks County Parrot Head Club and, as such, will participate in and attend various events sponsored or promoted by the club (herein referred to as the "BCPHC" and the "Event or Events," respectively). The undersigned acknowledges that there are risks of personal injury attendant to such participation in, and attendance at, the Events (the "Risks"). The undersigned is willing to release and hold harmless BCPHC and its officers and directors from any and all liabilities associated with the Risks. Consequently, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, hereby releases, remises, forever quitclaims and holds harmless BCPHC, its successors and assigns, officers, employees, and members from and against any and all liability, claims, damages, losses and expenses associated with the Risks attributable to, or arising out of injury, caused by, or relating to the undersigned's participation in or attendance at Events. In addition, participation in club events and activities grants de facto permission to BCPHC to publish photographs taken of the undersigned and name and likeness, for use in the BCPHC's print, online, as well as other BCPHC publications. The undersigned further acknowledges that their participation is voluntary and that they will not receive financial compensation of any type associated with the taking or publication of these photographs or participation in BCPHC marketing materials or other BCPHC publications. The undersigned acknowledges and agrees that publication of said photos confers no rights of ownership or royalties whatsoever.

Member(s) Signature(s)

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



is a publication of the <u>Berks County Parrot Head Club</u>, 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