



# parrot poop

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## From the President's Perch



*A* warm hello to all Parrot Heads! I hope this winter newsletter finds you well. This year has been one of the coldest on record and has brought the most snow in a long time. When you live your life on island time, it is difficult to have a positive attitude when your heart longs to be in the southern latitudes. Boat drinks do not taste the same in the snow, and the ice in them is different than the stuff we fall on. Walking in the snow does not make me smile the same way as walking on a sandy beach. Having the Harley in hibernation and knowing the boat was sound asleep on the lift only made it worse. So while I was plowing snow I was thinking that I have the worst case of cabin fever I have had in long time. I was close to shooting six holes in the plow truck.

Then I realized the Cabin Fever Party was just around the corner and I knew how much fun we were all going to have. I already knew Mary's Shelter was a great charity. What I didn't know was their ability to raise money and the great support they have from their board and members. It was outstanding from the beginning as they found their own major sponsor in the Rudden Family Foundation. Next, they sold 140 tickets and found many volunteers. Craig Poole and his team did some very special decorating and everyone loved the atmosphere they created. The food was very good and priced right. The only thing left was the music and the Mango Men took care of that in a big way. Watching the biggest crowd ever for a Cabin Fever party have that much fun was truly wonderful. The dance floor was full and people were smiling and laughing as they played the bottle tosses or socialized with their friends. It was obvious that I was not the only one who had cabin fever and needed to "Party with a Purpose." This was definitely a warm spot in a very cold winter.

Special thanks go out to the Rudden Family Foundation for its sponsorship and to Mary's Shelter for its efforts in making the event a success. Very special thanks go to all of our Parrot Heads who volunteered and also supported the event. None of this success would be possible without your dedication and continued efforts. Berks County and the charities we have helped are better because of you and our Berks County Parrot Head Club.

Thanks to all and think spring! Your Prez,

*Denny Lora*

# I Think I Got Cabin Fever (yet again!)

Lou Mancano



On February 22, 2014, during one of the

coldest and snowiest Pennsylvania winters on record, there couldn't be a Parrot Head in the northeast who didn't have cabin fever. Amidst a winter of snow blowing, shoveling, ice scraping, and pothole dodging, Berks County Parrot Heads and other supporters of Mary's Shelter gathered at the Wyomissing Crowne Plaza to enjoy food, fun, and the music of the always entertaining Mango Men. This year, the winter Cabin



Fever event saw a near record crowd come out to assist Mary's Shelter in their mission to provide services for pregnant women and women with newborns in need of housing and a supportive environment. If any of us think getting through this winter has been difficult, imagine trying to get through it while pregnant and homeless! This valuable community resource works to prepare pregnant women and new mothers for independent living and provides them with skills and hope for the future.

The Crowne Plaza outdid itself this year, skillfully transforming its ballroom into a tropical setting outfitted with lounge chairs, tiki bars, palm trees, and cabanas. The drink varieties were good and plentiful, and the \$10 per plate buffet was outstanding, the best I've experienced at a Cabin Fever event. The Silent, Chinese, and Live Auctions were full of impressive items for bid, including a variety of Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles signed sports memorabilia, as well as a guitar,

an album, and a photo bearing the signatures of the one and only Jimmy Buffett. After the auctions were completed, the Crowne put out yet another spread of shrimp and fruit for all to enjoy while dancing the night away.

Special thanks to all of the organizers, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees who made for such a successful event. Now that Cabin Fever is behind us, how about we all join hands and pray for a little Spring Fever?!







## Belly Up! My Favorite Tiki Bar

Mike Kerper

With this issue, we are inaugurating a new feature article about the best tiki bars around. If you have visited a tiki bar recently, perhaps one that might not be well known or one that is far away, please tell us all about it. Here's Mike Kerper's account of the Sandy Toes Beach Bar in the Bahamas....just the ticket to chase away the winter blues.

What constitutes a great tiki bar? Some folks will say it's a large crowd packed into an open air bar. Some say a local drunkard sitting on a bar stool in the corner with a six string dreadnought and a karaoke machine for a PA system is a requirement. Others would describe their perfect tiki bar as one with spring-breakers lying on the bar doing shots of tequila out of each others navels (belly button lint, yum!). While I enjoy the full throttle type of party bars described above (minus the belly shots), I prefer a more relaxing atmosphere. For me it's a change in latitude, a change in attitude, that puts my mind miles from reality. Like Skynard said, "I'm a simple kind of man."

While the mercury levels in Pennsylvania dipped into the single digits in January, my wife and I headed to Miami and boarded the Norwegian Sky for a four night cruise to the Bahamas. We had stops in Freeport, Nassau, and Great Stirrup Cay. We were determined to put our toes in the sand at every port. We weren't looking for a busy party spot. We wanted to get as far away as possible. While researching the ports, it seemed that this task would be difficult in Nassau, the most densely populated island in the Bahamas. Then we found Sandy Toes on Trip Advisor. The reviews were great, so we booked it.



Upon arriving in the port of Nassau, we loaded eight people in a six-person taxi and headed over to Paradise Island Ferry Terminal. After checking in, we boarded our double-decker boat and met our tour guide, "Big Daddy." There were a whopping fifteen people on our excursion that we'd be sharing an entire island with. Those numbers were pleasing. After a forty minute slow boat ride (with Big Daddy pointing out all the celebrity homes along the way), we arrived at our destination, Rose Island. We walked from the dock on the rocky south side of the island to the empty pristine white sand beach on the north side. As Jimmy once said, "if there's a heaven for me, I'm sure there's a beach attached to it." It appeared we found our heaven. After an hour or so swimming in the crystal clear water, I'd worked up quite a thirst and Samantha wanted to work on her tan. She made her way to the beach, and I found the tiki bar.

*(cont. Page 10)*

## Classic Album Rewind:

### *Off to See the Lizard*

Rich Leiby

**L**es, I know. It's a horrible pun. But let's be honest

with ourselves and admit that Jimmy Buffett is not above resorting to some corny humor when deciding on his album and song titles. (Last Mango in Paris??—sheesh!) That shouldn't stop you from taking a good long listen to this 1989 album, which I think ranks among his most underrated recordings.

First of all, this album **SHOULD** hold a place in every Parrot Head's heart if only for the fact that it features most of the current Coral Reefer Band personnel for the first time. It is also a little known fact that among the backup singers who sang on the album were none other than Sheryl Crow and Timothy B. Schmit. Impressive as this may sound, it is still the music that makes this album memorable. Some of my favorite tunes can be found here, like the perennial concert favorite "The Pascagoula Run." (Funny, it never seems quite as good live as it does on the CD.) This tune has a distinctive Cajun flair to it and features a "hook" that is so catchy it sticks in your mind long after you turn off the iPod. I've always imagined that if I ever was wealthy enough to buy a classic car, it would be a 1965 red Jaguar convertible. I even have the license plate picked out ("PASC RUN"). Oh well, it's nice to dream.

A second must-listen is the thoughtful ballad "Take Another Road." This chart is one of many featuring the collaborative work of Jimmy with Roger Guth and Jay Oliver. The song tends to rely on fairly common chord changes, but sometimes *simple* is best. I guess it's the lyrics that attracts me as much as the tune. There is something compelling about "taking another road to another time" for a historian such as myself, and I think we can all relate to "taking your own sweet time" and "leaving your cares behind," as the song suggests. Buffett may be kitschy at times, but the messages in his music still resonate!

I'm also a sucker for travel and "I Wish Lunch Could Last Forever" is mind-traveling at its best. The subtle rhythm line played by the accordion (or is it just Utley working his keyboard magic?) is evocative of lounging near the river Seine, sitting outside at a little café on the *Rive Gauche*, and sipping "café au lait beneath the Paris moon." For those of us who "dream about Paris," the tune can make you "wish you could hop on a plane." (Please forgive the unfortunate but unavoidable mixing of lyrics). "Boomerang Love" falls in the same category, only this time the flight is to Australia. I'll stick with Europe.

"Gravity Storm," "Carnival World," and "Strange Bird" are also worthy tunes, each with a variety of images and idiosyncratic rhythms that will keep you interested. Finally, don't miss "Changing Channels." If you are like me and love a good ballad, this one's for you. Why it doesn't get more air time at concerts and on Sirius Margaritaville is beyond me. But then again, why the whole album doesn't get more credit is beyond me too. Grab a copy. It just might make you "dance out, dance out, dance out in the rain."



## Quick Licks

with **Mike Miller of The Boat Drunks**

Tracey Lutz



The song, "Hollow Man" has a haunting theme, but it's a fan favorite written by Mike Miller. Mike has been playing music since the age of 15. In the beginning of his young career his father gave him some great advice; "Son, if you can't be really good, be really versatile." That is exactly what Miller has done, but I would argue that he has lived up to both talent and versatility.

In 1999 Mike, along with Jake Tatar, formed the trop rock band, The Boat Drunks. They grew a great fan following headlining many events, starting in the mid-west and spreading to Parrot Heads locales far and wide. But the sea was calling to him and in 2008 he left the band to sail. Sailing from the northeast down to the Bahamas, Mike had a successful solo career and also managed to sit in with the band a few times a year. He was persuaded to come back full time with the band in 2013, and they are working on new music in order to get a new album out.

If you're not familiar with The Boat Drunks, you can get their music at [boatdrunks.com](http://boatdrunks.com) or get Mike's solo CD at [hollowmanmusic.com](http://hollowmanmusic.com). We caught up with him at the Music on the Bay event for an interview.

—\*—

**PP:** Music on the Bay (Tampa, FL – [musiconthebay.org](http://musiconthebay.org)) is quite a large gathering of Parrot Heads and trop rock bands. What was the first Parrot Head event that you played at?

*MM:* It was in Ohio up on Lake Erie and there was a sailing regatta the same weekend. A bunch of sailors were at our show and after talking with many of them I got to thinking that that would be a pretty cool way to live. Many lived on boats ½ the year and others year round. So I got the idea way back in 2001 to buy a sail boat and learn how to sail. I started chartering boats and kept moving up finally buying one myself. Then in 2008 when I got the boat paid off, I was ready to go, I retired and moved onto the boat. That first year I took the boat out through the Eastern Great Lakes to the Atlantic and then on to the Bahamas where I spent my first winter. I still played about twenty shows with the guys. They knew what I was doing, I had planned it. In the meantime I was doing solo shows to bring in extra money plus I was doing a lot of writing.



**PP: You were putting your own sound to your songs?**

*MM: Yah, I wanted to play those songs out. I was in no hurry to get them recorded until I had some health issues and that brought things around, making me realize that I may not have forever. So I recorded my songs and put the solo CD out (My Life Ain't for Beginners). I've been pretty lucky, playing shows coast to coast.*

**PP: How many solo shows are you doing now?**

*MM: Quite a few. I haven't really counted them. But last summer (2012) I literally played from California to Maine and places in between. I also did two shows in Mexico.*

**PP: Do you have a favorite place to perform?**

*MM: Oh man, there are so many. I really enjoy Key West. I always have a really good time there. There are so many people there for Meeting of the Minds and they are all there to have a good time. Fins to the West is always a good event and this one (MOTB). I've been meeting up with the band and playing 20-30 shows a year. Cheeseburger in Caseville (Michigan) is a really good event also.*

**PP: Are you going to be playing with The Boat Drunks more?**

*MM: Well, we got to talking before MOTM this year (2012) and the band and I decided that it made sense for me to rejoin them full time. And I decided to go ahead and do it, so I'll be at all the shows. They are really good friends of mine. I just was living and traveling on my 38' Hunter sailboat. I have sold the boat and I'm moving off the water for a little while.*

**PP: Hollow Man is one of my favorites. What was your inspiration for that song?**

*MM: It's hard to say where songs come from sometimes. You know, from somewhere inside you. But the unvarnished truth of Hollow Man is that we had a homework assignment. We had been playing Trop Rock events for about a year and one night at rehearsal Jake said we need to put out a CD of our own material so, "everybody go home and write songs." I literally sat down on my couch and in about 15 minutes I wrote the song. And within a few days I also wrote This Ain't Duval Street. I brought them back and played them for the guys in the band not knowing if the songs were gonna make it.*

**PP: Are you planning to stay with the Trop Rock theme and play Parrot Head events?**

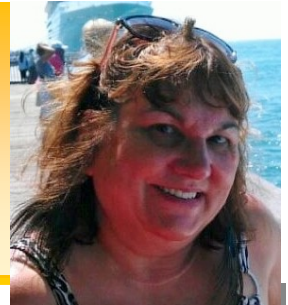
*MM: Well the Parrot Head events are our favorite. More likely than not, people already know our songs thanks to Radio Margaritaville and Beach Front Radio which has helped to grow their popularity. People are here to have a good time and it's always fun. I remember early on when Radio Margaritaville started playing our stuff, what a kick it was to go somewhere like Ocean City, MD where we had never been before, and we'd start playing Hollow Man and have 150 people singing it back to us. We'd look at each other and say, "How the hell do these people know this song?!" That is a real kick and a thrill to hear people singing our songs! It's been a great ride.*





# Strange Birds

featuring Patti Geiger



This month's strange bird is originally from Orwigsburg and is a graduate of Blue Mountain High School and Kutztown State University with a B.S. in Elementary Education. She spent ten years living in Madison, Ohio having relocated there because of her husband's job. At one time or another, Patti has been involved in teaching, sales, customer service, payroll, HR, document control, and quality assurance, but she is currently retired and keeping busy redecorating her house. Patti and her husband of over 35 years, Dennis, currently reside in Mohrsville. They have a daughter, Deidra, who resides in Gettysburg.

## Some phun phacts about Patti:

**Favorite Jimmy Buffett song :** *Come Monday*

**Favorite Jimmy Buffett song line:** *"That's why we wander and follow La Vie Dansante."*

**Favorite place to be while listening to troprock music:** *Key West every February especially while having a drink at the Sunset Pier.*

**How many concerts have you been to and was one more memorable than the others?:** *I have been to four concerts. The most memorable was one a couple of years ago at Camden where we had such a great time tailgating and the concert was awesome.*

**If all your Buffett music was lost or stolen, what would you listen to?:** *I listen to almost anything but my feet move if it has a tropical beat & I am transported to a beach or tropical setting.*

**Favorite coral refer, other than Jimmy:** *Lyman Corbitt "Mac" McAnally, Jr.*

**Favorite food:** *I am trying to eat better but a good cheeseburger or hot wings are my weakness.*

**Favorite movies:** *Gone With the Wind, Dirty Dancing, Grease, Saturday Night Fever*

**Favorite restaurant:** *Blue Heaven, Key West*

**Drink of choice:** *Depends on my mood. Wine or a Caribbean Martini (Malibu Rum, Vanilla Vodka & Pineapple Juice) and even a Landshark or a Corona.*

**How did you get involved in the BCPHC?:** *We have been going to Parrot Head-type events for a while. We were so impressed with all the charities that have been helped & everyone was having such a fun time at Parrot Daze, we joined in 2010 .*

**What's on your bucket list?:** *I have a list of tropical places that I want to check off!*

**Any insights or inspirations to pass on?:** *Life is so short...Live each day to the fullest & your life with NO regrets!*

**Where the heck is Margaritaville?:** *It's a state of mind and it can be just about anywhere that you are lucky enough to have good company, good drinks, and a good time.*





Trivia:

I KNEW HIM WHEN.....

Lou Mancano

Before the concerts, before the Margaritaville restaurants, the t-shirts, and the line of frozen foods and drinks, there once was a singer who was struggling to make it in the very competitive world of music. Most of us are well acquainted with Jimmy's music now, but how many of us actually followed his career when he was just starting out? Take this trivia quiz to see how much you know about Jimmy's early days.

1. In his early days of live performances, Jimmy Buffett was the opening act for all but which of these performers?

- A. Linda Ronstadt      B. Frank Zappa      C. Bob Dylan      D. Three Dog Night

2. Buffett began touring with the Coral Reefer Band in which year?

- A. 1972      B. 1975      C. 1978      D. 1981

3. In the 1970s, Jimmy played a live performance at which college/university in the Southeastern PA area?

- A. Villanova      B. Temple      C. Rosemont      D. Lehigh

4. The original Coral Reefer tour band was made up of all but which one of these musicians?

- A. Roger Bartlett (guitar)      B. Greg "Fingers" Taylor (harmonica)      C. Harry Dailey (bass)      d. Michael Utley (keyboards)



5. Jimmy played alongside each of these popular bands of the '70s. In 1979, he played in Hawaii for the first time opening for which one of them?

- A. Jackson Browne      B. The Eagles      C. Fleetwood Mac      D. Steve Miller Band

6. In which year did Jimmy begin consistently playing as the headliner act?

- A. 1980 Hot Dog and Roadmap Tour      B. 1981 Coconut Telegraph Tour  
C. 1982 Homecoming Tour      D. 1983 Six-Stop American Tour

7. Which song did Jimmy record during his 1983 tour?

- A. One Particular Harbour      B. Migration      C. Door Number Three      D. Havana Daydreamin'

8. While on his 1984 tour, Jimmy was chosen to sing the National Anthem at a playoff game for which baseball team?

- A. New York Yankees      B. Boston Red Sox      C. Chicago Cubs      D. St. Louis Cardinals

9. Robert Greenidge began touring with the Coral Reefers as the steel drums player in which year?

- A. 1980      B. 1981      C. 1982      D. 1983

10. In 1987, Jimmy played a New Year's Eve party in Key West with which one of these performers?

- A. the Neville Brothers      B. Bonnie Riatt      C. the Little River Band      D. the Wailers

**Scoring:** 7-10 Did you memorize "A Pirate Looks at Fifty," or what? 5-6 A respectable chunk of trivial knowledge!

3-4 You're a lousy guesser too, eh?

1-2 Don't feel too bad; these were hard.

My Favorite Tiki Bar (cont from page 4)

The speakers were putting out a steady mix of music from the local pirate radio station. There were maybe six other people at the large bar. Half were employees, the other half were Nassau locals who'd came to the island for the day on their own boat to have a few drinks and play cards. Straight ahead was that magnificent blue water that the Bahamas is known for. To my left on the horizon I could see the island used for the filming of the intro credits to Gilligan's Island. A boat named "Sacriligious" gently bobbed just off the beach to the west. As I drew that salt water air through my stogie, I realized I had found my favorite tiki bar.



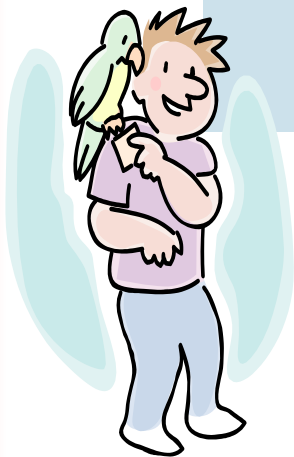
I know what you might be thinking: "Tell me more about this awesome bar! Tell me about the crazy couple down the bar from you and the conversation you overheard. Tell me about when Chevy Chase walked in unannounced and started pouring shots out for everyone." The truth is, it wasn't that kind of awesome. It was me, sitting on a bar stool, drinking a rum drink, smoking a cigar. It was where the sweet of the rum met the salt of



the sea. Some would consider this bar uneventful, and it was. That's my point. I absolutely love the hustle bustle of Duval Street and its array of bars. As a music junky, I always enjoy listening to the local acoustic guitarist belt out his best rendition of Tin Cup Chalice. But if you are really looking to put some distance between you and the real world, consider seeking something a little more low key. You probably won't be disappointed.

Phledgling Phlockers:

welcome to the Club!!!



Ritta Getzloff



Lorraine Stone

- 10. A
- 9. D
- 8. C
- 7. A
- 6. B
- 5. B
- 4. D
- 3. A
- 2. B
- 1. C

## Toys for Tots— Christmastime 2013

Lou Mancano



Each of us has holiday memories that we hold dear to our hearts. I can still

remember being four or five years old and printing my Christmas wish list before my parents took me to visit Santa at a local department store. I would then wait with anticipation and wonderment, help to decorate our tree on Christmas Eve, and awaken early Christmas morning unable to contain my excitement. My brother and I would run downstairs to find that we were special enough for Santa and his reindeer to bring toys to our home. We felt like the luckiest kids in the world. Those were such magical days!



The BCPHC gathered at 3rd and Spruce on the evening of Friday December 13, 2013 to support the U. S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program and to bring the magic of Christmas to children throughout our great country. The event was a wonderful opportunity to share good times with friends and to honor our military heroes. From October through December each year, Marine Corps Reserve Units collect new, unwrapped toys and coordinate distribution of these Christmas gifts – messages of hope - to less fortunate children throughout our communities.

While Berks County Parrot Heads were eating, drinking and socializing – partying with a purpose - it was nice to know that we were a small but significant part of a national campaign of community events held in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. As boxes of colorful toys gradually filled and eventually brimmed over, I couldn't help but think of how the generosity of our Club members would soon bring a lifetime of magical memories to wide-eyed little children. For a few moments this Christmas, much like my brother and I felt fifty years ago, these kids will feel like the luckiest kids in the world.

## Committee Updates

25 words (more) or less

**Parrot Poop (Newsletter Committee) - Rich Leiby** *If you don't have a committee assignment and like to be creative, join the Newsletter committee. Don't make me beg, please.*

**Pfeeding Pfrenzy (Merchandise Committee) - Tina Shenk** *Are you a Parrot Head? Do your Flip Flops say it? Ours do! Now available—only \$8.00 and in very cool colors. Get yours today.*

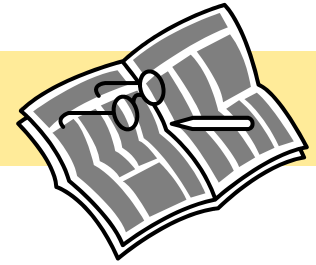
**Changes in Attitude (Charity Committee) - Gary Kraft** *With our successful Mary's Shelter event completed, we now focus on the Golf Outing benefiting the BCPHC Angel Fund and Summer Daze benefiting Junior Achievement of Berks County and Lehigh Valley.*

**If the Phone Doesn't Ring (Membership Committee) - Susan Standefer** *Anyone who hasn't renewed by March 1st will be removed from the membership list. We got three new members at Cabin Fever which brings us up to 171 members. Next membership meeting is March 12th 6:30 at Susie's house.*

### 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!

.....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