



January, 2019

# USELESS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BERKS COUNTY PARROT HEAD CLUB



## Message from our Prez:

### Looking Back, Looking Forward

As we all say goodbye to 2018 it is a good time to reflect on the year gone past and welcome in the new challenges for 2019. I hope 2018 was a good one for all of you and 2019 is even better.

For our BCPHC, 2018 was a very successful year with many great events and wonderful charities which all of you helped in some way. It is amazing to me that we consistently raise over \$50,000 a year for many different charities. The year closed seeing our total contributions to Berks County Charities totaling over \$730,000. Quite an amazing feat and something all of us should be so proud of. In addition, as Jimmy insists that we give back to the environment, we had our two Highway cleanup projects that amounted to quite a collection of trash.

Looking forward, we have a new charity for our Cabin Fever Party which will be on February 9<sup>th</sup> at "Inn at Reading". New Journey Community Outreach is the Charity and our very own Debbie Hartranft is their Board Chair. This is a smaller Charity which needs our help and I am excited about this new Charity and the new venue. Of course we will have Jimmy and the Parrots play-

ing those songs we know by heart. Everyone should mark their calendars and help us Party with a Purpose.

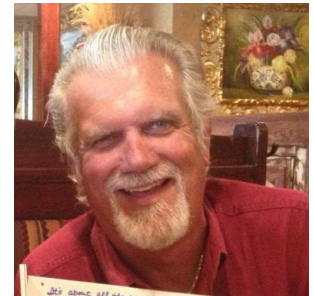
Summer Parrot daze will be July 20 and 21 at Beverly Hills Tavern. Mary's Shelter is the Charity and another of Berks County's Finest. Please mark your calendar for this event too.

We have a new Board this year with some different faces and we are excited to continue the success past boards have enjoyed. The Board cannot reach our full potential without the support of our members. If you would like to help by joining one of our Committees, please reach out to me or any of the board members. Any time or effort is appreciated.

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to a prosperous New Year.

I am grateful to be your President and I love our Parrot Head family.

Sincerely, The Prez, Denny



As of 1/8/19, we have raised.....

# \$739,538

For local charities!



## Cabin Fever

February 9, 2019

Inn at Reading

Music : Jimmy and the Parrots

Charity: New Journey

Community Outreach

Theme: Mardi Gras

## A Junkman's Christmas

By: Denny Lorah

We were able to bring Peter Mayer and the Stars and Promises band back to Reading again this year. This can only happen with the support of our local business sponsors and we thank them all.

Hearing Peter tell his stories of Christmas in India as a small child was very moving to the audience. For those who don't know, Peter's father was a minister and his early childhood was spent in the southern part of India. There was no money for Christmas presents. So, as Peter explains, his father collected junk and fabricated presents for the Family. This year's show was a tribute to his father, "A Junkman's Christmas"

The band performed many of the Christmas songs we have enjoyed for a long time with that special Stars and Promises twist along with some of their own recordings and one song was performed with used or homemade instruments. The band is an assembly of extremely talented musicians including his son Brendan. Mark Holland the native American flute player, is a favorite of everyone.

For those of you who have not seen this Christmas concert, I encourage you to put it on your 2019 Christmas list. It is generally is the first week in December on a Thursday evening. So tentatively mark your calendar and join us next year.

I Hope everyone had a Merry and blessed Christmas.





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# EXPANDING THE VIEW

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## The night Muscle Shoals came to Harrisburg

By: Jill Troutman

The music, the musician, the man; Mac McAnally finally found his way north to play in the beautiful Harrisburg Forum. While it was not the heat of the south, it was under the stars so to speak. I first noticed the tall red headed Alabamian at a Jimmy Buffett concert when he was introduced as the five-time CMA musician of the year. "Who is this guy filling in for Alan Jackson?" My research later found he was a writer, composer, and musician. Writing for and playing with Artists Kenny Chesney, Wynton Marsalis, David Allen Coe, Amy Grant, Toby Keith and the list goes on. While the years have rolled on, so have the CMA awards for Mac, my appreciation and admiration for his music vocal talents, and his playing of his rendition guitar solo of "Little Martha." This is a must see on YouTube if you have never heard the magic.

I had the pleasure of first meeting Mac in Texas. The shy giant is as you see on stage: polite and ever the southern gentleman. I was so excited to hear Mac was coming to Harrisburg for us as he has never come further than Annapolis, MD. This time he dared to cross the Mason-Dixon line on a freezing cold November night. The venue was The Forum in Harrisburg and its beautiful intimate concert hall. The hall ceiling looks as if you are sitting under the stars. Every seat in the house is a great seat making you feel as if you are the only one in the room with the artist. We imbibed in our "5 O'clock Somewhere" drinks, found our seats, waved to our Berks County and Amish Parrott head friends, and waited for Mac to take the stage. Mac was bigger than life on the stage, words cannot capture the talent we witnessed as he crooned, played his guitars and the gorgeous grand piano. He shared stories of growing up in the south, life on the road to fame, and tidbits on how he came to write such songs as "Back where I come



Photo: Jill Hoffman, Mac, Connie Gaummer, Kurt Hoffman)

from", "Down the road", and "Junk Cars." It's no wonder the man is so tall, he is a shit load of talent!!

Mac did a meet and greet after the show, where once again he was ever the southern gentleman. He shook hands, gave warm hugs, and shared stories all while his body guard took photos for the fans. Mac met every single person with a sincere smile and humble thanks for coming out to see his show. If Mac makes it north again, I hope you will come out and listen to this amazing talent. Mac McAnally the music, the musician, the man, he proved this night "the 10 time CMA musician of the year" - ain't "Nobody".





## Chris Ernst



**How & why you joined the club?**

**I like to party with a purpose.**

**Where will you go when the volcano blows?**

**An island.**

**What is your favorite Buffet song?**

**Son of a Sailor**

**What is your**

**favorite line from a Buffet song?**

**Pencil thin mustache.**

**How many Buffet concerts have you attended / and favorite? 0**

**If all Buffet music was lost what would you listen to?**

**Zac Brown**

**How long have you listened to Buffet?**

**25 years**

**Favorite Movie?**

**Goonies**

**What do you like on your cheeseburger?**

**Mayo, Ketchup, Lettuce**

**Favorite Food?**

**Pasta**

**What is your favorite Trop Rock Venue?**

**Beverly Hills**

**Where is your Margaritaville?**

**Paradise Grill**

## Drop Your Drawers with Dead Jimmy

During an Events Meeting for the planning of Cabin Fever, it was brought up that there was a great need for underwear for the homeless coming into the winter season. Thru much brainstorming, we came up



with the event called "Drop Your drawers with Dead Jimmy". During any night that Dead Jimmy was playing during November and December, you could come out and "Drop your drawers with Dead Jimmy", by bringing new packaged men's and ladies briefs to benefit New Journey Community Outreach, who is our Charity for Cabin Fever in February. What a concept! Who would have thought that "dropping your drawers" would actually be a



**with DEAD JIMMY**  
**at the Railroad House**  
 Benefits New Journey Outreach



## The Clabaugh's .... Experiencing Hawaii Then and Now!

In August, 1968, we were able to spend our first wedding anniversary on Waikiki Beach. It was bittersweet because we knew after our wonderful week, Jeff would have to return to Vietnam, and I would return to Pennsylvania. We never thought we would go back to Hawaii again, but this fall, 50 years later, we were given a pair of airline tickets and the opportunity to accompany my brother and his wife on a two-week Hawaiian vacation. This trip began with a cruise on the Pride of America departing Oahu and docking first in Maui. We were able to see the beauty of the island from 10,000 ft. atop the Haleakala Crater. Next we went to Hilo, Hawaii, where Volcano National Park had recently reopened, and then sailed to Kaua'i, our favorite island, where we saw the beautiful Nepali Coast and Waimea Canyon, the Grand Canyon of the Pacific.



After our return to Oahu, we stayed a week on Ko'Olina Beach where we enjoyed some relaxing beach time. We rented a car and drove the coastline to North Shore. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to explore new places. Waikiki Beach had certainly changed in 50 years. It was much narrower, and with the addition of all the high rise condos, traffic was congested. Our last stop was the Arizona Memorial which was even more haunting and memorable this time. We toasted with a MaiTai at the Outrigger on Waikiki Beach as we'd done 50 years before, wondering where the time had gone, but feeling grateful to have been able to return to this paradise.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Summer Parrot Daze—July 20 and 21, 2019**

## Toys for Tots 2018

### Sherry Ritchey

There was magic in the air once again as we held our Annual Toys for Tots collection to help make some children's Christmas a little brighter this year. We gathered at Jimmy G's Railroad House for good food, friendship, laughter and also enjoyed music by Dead Jimmy as we "Partied with a Purpose". The turnout was low but we were still able to fill 2 collection boxes. Thanks to everyone who came out!



## Membership Committee:

### Sue Standefer

The Membership Committee will meet Wednesday, January 23rd at 6:30 at the Standefer House. Reminder letters will be sent to members who haven't renewed yet. New lanyards are in and being distributed to members. We are always looking for new members on the committee. We don't meet every month – only if we have business to conduct. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee contact Susie at 610-703-5852 or email [counsel2@ptd.net](mailto:counsel2@ptd.net).



**Members  
strong!**

## USELESS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Useless and Important Information 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 and is 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.berkscountyparrothead.club>