



# the Palm Reader

News from the Parrotheads of the Old Dominion

Fall 2000

## It's Party Time

It is hard to believe that December is already upon us and it is time for our annual holiday party. This year's event will be held on Saturday, December 16th from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Sully Station pool house in Centreville.

This is the club's only adults-only event; a time to get a baby sitter and let the big kids play for a change. When

was the last time YOU got to take a swing at a pinata?

Another feature is the always popular POD gift exchange where the trading of wrapped gifts brings out the best in strategic planning (and a little back stabbing) to go home with the most coveted prizes. Don't go overboard, gifts should be in the \$5-\$10 range. Other features: the return of POD Karaoke and a 50/50 raffle.

But like any club event, we won't be doing this just for us. Bring a new, unwrapped gift for the Marine Corps' Toys For Tots campaign. Last year we delivered a good size truck load for that cause. Last year, Marines and volunteers in 342 communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa collected and distributed over 13.7 million toys to 5.9 million needy children. Also, we'll be picking the winner of the boom box in a special raffle that raise funds for our annual contribution to Cystic Fibrosis through Megan's Walk next spring.

We're trying to make this fun and as little work as possible. The event will be catered. The cost will be \$12.00 per person and collected at the door. Sodas and coffee will be provide. Pack a cooler for your other beverages of choice. If you haven't done so, you must RSVP to Sally (703-771-1734) immediately so we can provide the caterer with an accurate head count.

Thanks to Don and Heather for again securing the pool house of our party.

### How to get there:

From Leesburg/Winchester take Rt. 50 east to Rt. 28 south. Take a right at second light onto Westfields Blvd. Turn left at the second light onto Sequoia Farms Drive (If you are in the right place, there will be a Safeway on the left). Sully Station Club House is the first building on the right.

From Rt. 66: Take Rt. 28 north exit. Turn left at the third light onto Westfields Blvd. Turn left at the second light onto Sequoia Farms Drive (Again, hopefully you'll see Safeway on the left). Sully Station Club House is the first building on the right.

## At The Helm

It has been a busy and exciting couple of months. Next year promises to be even better. The key to keeping that promise is you.

Many of you know that we have been working to broaden club participation by finding ways to make it easier for members to help organize and participate in club events. We're trying this from a number of different approaches.



First, we have set up three committees to allow members to contribute their particular expertise. Until a formal structure its adopted, all committees are open to any members

who want to volunteer.

The Administration Committee is developing club bylaws, pursuing incorporation and nonprofit tax status and establishing a budget. From its inception, the club has been run by the informal "Helm Committee," which has from time to time discussed all of these items as some point and also handled all other aspects of club operation. The first goal of this group is to develop a formal structure for the club and to set the stage for elections in 2001. The Administration Committee will set club policy,

*Continued On Back Page*





# A Night In The Hamptons

—by Douglas Loving

Without Question, “Death of an Unpopular Poet” is one of my favorite songs, I thought I would never hear it performed live. I was wrong.

Jimmy and Jane Buffett make their summer home in Sag Harbor, NY, described as a Key Wet of the north, it is a quaint little community where everyone knows everyone else.

When their two youngest children reached school age, Jimmy and Jane helped to found the Peconic Montessori School in Sag Harbor. With a very limited enrollment, the operating budget was a huge concern. Rather than exorbitant tatters, the school called upon it’s most famous founding member to help raise the operating expenses for the year.

In what Jimmy Buffett describes as “A long standing tradition of, oh a year or so,” Jimmy plays a very small fund raising concert for the school in November. The first show was held in Sag Harbor. This year the venue was the Guild Hall in East Hampton NY, five miles south of Sag Harbor. The Guild Hall is a cozy little theater for the performing arts with a capacity for 332 people. After the show was announced, the tickets went very quickly according to the Montessori principal. VIP seats sold for \$500 and included a pre-show reception with the head parrot himself. The common folks that wished to sit during the performance paid \$250 for the privilege and SRO tickets were available for \$125.

For the entire drive I was thinking, “what will these ‘Yankee Parrotheads’ be like?” I feared arriving to a sedate crowd in formal wear and suits, loyally supporting the local school. At 6:25, I found a street parking place 30 yards from the front door of Guild Hall and my mind was immediately put to rest. The guys parked behind me were busy putting on their grass skirts. The doors were scheduled to open at 7 and a small group of 25 people were waiting in the lobby. I met a Parrothead couple from Melbourne, four members from the St. Louis Parroted Club, and knew I was truly at home. We all had our postcards confirming our tickets and waited for the doors to open, promptly at 7. They were missing no opportunity to raise money here.

We were then directed to register for a silent auction and then sent to a waiting room. Doors there opened into a huge walled tent with a free bar, Coronas and limes, wine, mixed and soft drinks were being served at three bars throughout the tent. The tent was ringed with the auction items. Parrotphernalia and local wares were offered here.

At 8 p.m. the doors were opened at it was obvious, no one would have a bad seat for this show. The stage was decorated with flowers and ornamental trees, a stool was at the center of the stage, and a single acoustic guitar waited on a stand. The worst seat in the house was no more then 50 feet from Bubba.

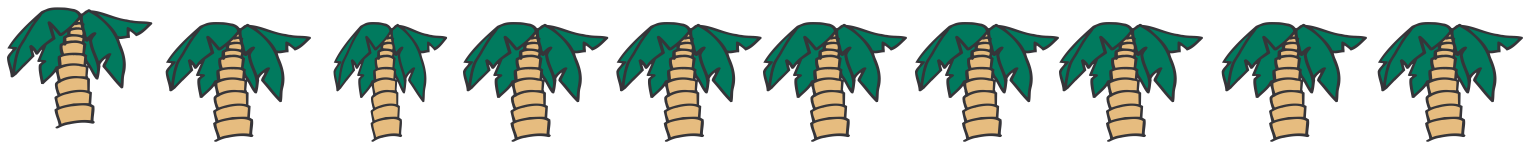
At 8:30, after some words of thanks from the school principal, Jimmy was welcomed to the stage. He promised none of the songs he plays to death and began the show. I felt like I was in Jimmy’s living room and he was singing to a group of his closest (and slightly drunk) friends. He quickly put a nasty rumor to rest for us. He will be touring next year, and he will be putting out a new CD this year. One of the new songs, Jessie Winchester’s “Gentleman of Leisure,” was included in the set list. You will love it.

A couple of interesting tidbits were revealed. The owner of Fausto’s, the store where Jimmy looked for the chocolate milk hangover cure referred to in “My Head Hurts. . .” now provides the ground beef sold in the “Cheeseburger in Paradise” at the Key West Margaritaville. The “Woman Going Crazy on Caroline Street” was actually a transvestite that the local politicians mistakenly hit on in a local bar.

All three songs for Jimmy’s children were performed, *Little Miss Magic* for Savannah Jane, *Delaney Talks to Statues* and *Beach House on the Moon* for Cameron Marley. “We are the People our Parents Warned us About” had the crowd singing “Shake it up BABY!” in, as Jimmy described, “perfect key and timing.” The crowd was in fine voice and so was Jimmy.

As the evening came to a close we were asked to pretend that Jimmy had left the stage and came back for his encores. What a great surprise to actually hear “Death of an Unpopular Poet” as one of the final songs. The evening could not have been better. I know, for certain, that I will be there again next year if my photo shoot schedule allows.





**Before the rains came at Nissan.**

## *Things We Did Last Summer*



**Sailing with  
Captains Jeff and Jack**



**Keeping Signal Hill clean  
at our new Manassas location**



**Nice crew for a Rt.  
15 cleanup**



**A visit from Sunny Jim**



**Volleyball Phlocking  
in Middleburg**



**Octoberphest 2000**







## Welcome Aboard ....

*to new members who have joined during the year. If you don't know them, looking for them at the next event and give them a warm parrothead greeting.*

Eddie & Jill Cole	Baltimore, MD	Christy Pasquarello	Leesburg
Stephen & Brenda Cook	Middletown, MD	Steve & Kathy Payne	Leesburg
Jeff & Isabel Douglas	Sterling	Kevin Richter	McLean
William & Vickie Earhart	Manassas	Mark Smith	Springfield
William Everheart	Ashburn	Brenda Tackett	Nokesville
Carl & Elizabeth Guerreri	Manassas	Marnie Turman	Sterling
Heather Holder	Manassas	Stephen & Lisa Tursky	Clifton
Greg & Kim Laws	South Riding	Terry & Michelle Umfleet	Leesburg
Stan Maoury	South Riding	Robert Vaughn	Reston
Len & Peg McMaster	Williamsburg	Greg & Cheryl Waddle	Manassas

**POD Fact:** The club membership covers a broad geographic range. Here's a breakdown of where our — members live: Leesburg 29; Manassas 20; Sterling 7; Berryville 6; Reston 5; Centreville 4; Ashburn 3; South Riding 3; Aldie 2; Clifton 2; Great Falls 2; Herndon 2; Purcellville 2; Norfolk 2; Round Hill 2; Springfield 2; Stephen City 2; Williamsburg 2; Winchester 2; Vienna 1; Virginia Beach 1; Chantilly 1; McLean 1; Nokesville 1. There are also six members who live in Maryland.

## Member Spotlight

Members of our club have known for years that J Douglas is more than a T-shirt salesman. Yes, he is more than a black belt taekwondo instructor. Now everyone knows it.



J did one of his first parrothead design for the POD when he made buttons for the Domino College tour. Of course, back then the native Texan knew little about this parrothead madness and an early draft of the artwork had dice were the dominos should have been. These days it is rare to enter J's Leesburg store without hearing Buffett on the CD player and his designs are carried on club T-shirts from New Jersey to Texas.

J was the winner of this year's national competition to design the logo for the ninth annual Meeting of the Minds parrothead convention in Key West. His design was everywhere, the laminate ID badges, the event T-shirts and a huge mural on the front of the host hotel. In addition to a free pass to the convention, J was presented with a copy of his design signed by Jimmy Buffett. Congratulations to J for being selected the national parrothead artist for 2000.



## Parrot Picks:

As winter blows down from Cincinnati, a CD changer full of tropical tunes can do wonders to help resist that urge to shoot six holes in your freezer. A new venture by Florida's Mark Friedman might offer the best medicine. Mark was an early supporter of James "Sunny Jim" White and worked to help other artists promote their music to parrotheads and like-minded music fans. That effort has evolved into the recently launched MigrationMusic.com website. From there you can order CDs ranging from well known artists like Club Trini and Fingers Taylor to lesser know veterans like the Sauce Boss, Hugo Duarte and the Barefoot Man to up and comers like Dennis McCaughey, Kelly McGuire and Sonny Russell. If you are looking from the artists who played at POD shows this year, the works of Sunny Jim, Scott Kirby and Jim Morris are all featured on the site. Mark is offering free shipping through the end of December.





# Lessons From The Master

## Peter Mayer Fan Club Convention Review

It was a scene played out ad infinitum for centuries in spiritual, philosophical and academic settings. The students gathered, awe-struck and eager, at the feet of the master. The master? Why, Peter Mayer, of course. The students? Those attending the guitar clinic at the first annual PMFC Convention in Baltimore, MD held Nov. 18-19.

To say that members of the PMFC are somewhat enthusiastic about their idol would be a mild understatement. Overzealous...well, that might be closer. This being said by a member herself, of course. However, after the weekend's activities, I will never think about apologizing for my overzealous enthusiasm again.

The two day convention kicked off at 9 a.m. with registration and the chance to "meet-n-greet." With a few technical problems to deal with the clinic began at 11 a.m. with Jim Mayer sharing some background on his and Peter's musical beginnings. Jim then talked about the value of at least a basic knowledge of musical theory, a subject that Peter later expounded upon.

Peter then took the stage, to be met with a ringing cell phone, which he of course, answered. "Jimmy? Yes, I'm in Baltimore...Sure, I'll be a couple of days...doing a clinic and show. I show up at my fans' conventions." That being said, tongue in cheek, Peter proceeded to show his fans how much they meant to him. Joining him in the session were Jim Mayer, Vince Varvel and percussionist, Scott Bryan.

Not everyone who attended was a musician, and those who were ranged widely in ability and experience from beginner to professional. As a "semi-pro" guitarist (I perform professionally, but get paid like an amateur.), I suppose I was about in the middle of the pack. Peter handled each person who presented a guitar, from fledgling to pro, demonstrating how to improve at their own level. The entire experience was inspiring.

The group then hosted a question and answer period, where Peter gave insight into his travels with the Calypso Poet himself, an experience he cherishes and enjoys completely.

After an afternoon break to regroup and refresh, Peter and the group returned to the stage to wow the eager attendees with

an evening of songs. Opening the show was Dennis McCaughey, who I had the good fortune to see in Key West recently. He regaled us with his tropical tales until it was time for the main event. Having seen Peter numerous times, I can honestly say that the group was at its peak. The passion and intricate guitar work delivered in BB's Got the Blues was not to be outdone. A rousing rendition of Blue Guitar had all on their feet.

Knowing this was a dedicated group, as it was strictly limited to PMFC members, Peter felt free to play some of his more obscure works, much to the joy of his fans. This man truly appreciates his fans and does not let us forget it for a minute. The feeling was



reciprocated, as the last notes were heard by the crowd, taken from Peter's tribute to the Key West sunset on Mallory Square, Oh Susannah, "I guess you just saw the best show in town..." and the group let Peter know, that yes, indeed, we had just seen the best show in town, and we weren't referring to a sunset. Thank you, Peter, for giving back to the fans.

If you haven't heard Peter's new CD, it is a must for your collection. Stars and Promises is a collection of traditional and new Christmas music. I can almost promise it will become one of your favorites.

To join the Peter Mayer Fan Club, please contact Sue McCaughey, PMFC, 925 Indian Springs Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601.

*by Sandy Kayser and John Friday*



## Helm

### *Continued From Front Page*

but will delegate authority for many club functions to others.

The Events Committee is responsible for organizing the nitty-gritty of club functions. In the past, one or two club members have made events like the Volleyball Phlocking or the Holiday party a success. With more than 100 members, there's no reason others can't pitch in as well. If you want get involved at the front end of the planning, help with a particular event, or have an idea for a new event, the Events Committee needs to hear from you.

The third group is the Communications Committee. This one isn't up and running just yet, but will be responsible for managing the webpage, publishing the newsletter, and developing a phone tree and other methods for keeping members informed.

One method of improved communication that has already been implemented is the creation of a club listserv for members with access to email. Using the free One List service, we have created a mailing list for members who want to be more involved or more closely follow club activities. Routine event announcements will continue to be broadcast to the

entire club via e-mail and/or the postal service. If you are interested in committee meeting announcements and agendas, discussions of specific club policies and other club or Buffett related postings, you want to sign up for the listserv. Go to: <http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/PODlist> to subscribe.

Also the webpage, [www.parrothead.org](http://www.parrothead.org), has been significantly improved thanks to Raleigh's contributions. On that site there are photos of club events, a public bulletin board and links to other important or interesting sites. For online shoppers, the ads posted on the main page provide the club with a fee whenever our site is used to purchase items. Below deck in the member's only area (let me know if you forgot/never knew the password information), you'll find member phone numbers and e-mail addresses and other useful stuff like T-shirt order forms and committee meeting minutes.

Finally, there is *The Palm Reader*. If your reading this, we finally got one out. If you've got some to add for the spring edition let us know.

I guess the theme for the month is to "get involved." That's not the same as "do more work," but more along the lines of "don't be afraid to jump in and make this club better." Let us know how we can help you and what you expect from the club.

—Norman

***PARROTHEADS OF THE OLD DOMINION IS A NONPROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY, TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, AND TO PROVIDE A VARIETY OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO SHARE AN INTEREST IN JIMMY BUFFETT MUSIC. IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING NEW FRIENDS AND HAVING FUN, WE BELIEVE IN LEAVING SOMETHING POSITIVE BEHIND. OUR CLUB IS OPEN TO ANYONE WITH A TROPICAL SPIRIT AND THE DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES.***



Parrotheads of the Old Dominion  
39649 Pine Meadow Lane  
Aldie, VA 20105-1835