



The Palm Reader

News From Parrotheads Of The Old Dominion

www.parrothead.org

Spring/Summer 2001

\$3,700 Raised For CF Foundation



A lot of hard work by a lot of members paid off in a big way last month when the club presented checks totalling \$3,700 to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as part of Megan's Walk.

That makes it the club's largest single charity contribution. It was more than double the amount raised by the club last year and represented more than 10% of the \$35,000 raised by Megan's Walk this year. Additionally, the club was a sponsor of all the Great Strides walk sites in Northern Virginia. Nationally, \$17.5 million was raised to support valuable research.

The club's fundraising effort for this event began last fall and many, many members have contributed. For the walk itself, about half of all club members raised sponsorships for event and 23 members made

the hike up to the 4-H Fairgrounds and back to Loudoun County High School.

It was an amazing accomplishment and demonstrates the great community impact our club can make while having fun and enjoying each others company. Concerts, happy hours and other outings are fun, but it is the community events like Megan's Walk and the highway cleanups that are most important to the club's mission. Thanks to all who helped out.

Fundraising efforts will now turn to the Alzheimer's Memory Walk that will be held in October. Last year the club donated about \$2,500 and was a title sponsor of the event. Money raised by raffles and other special programs over the next several months will be designated for the Memory Walk.



At The Helm

It has been a few months of great times and a big let down for the club.

On the positive side, we've had some of our best events with more individuals than ever involved in their planning and participating. The St. Patrick's Day happy hour was a blast. Taking over nearly the entire bowling alley in Leesburg is always a fun time, even it is a little scary for the ten-pin regulars who are left to wonder why these brightly colored strangers have invaded their turf. The April Fool's Day concert was both flawless and fun. Sunny Jim did a great job to wrap up his whirl-wind DC area tour with us. He'll be back in late August with Jim Morris on an acoustic tour that is currently headed across the South. Details are still being worked out with other area Parrot Head clubs on the details of that event. Megan's Walk was just great all the way around.

The big downer was concert tickets. We've been saying for six years that access to Jimmy Buffett tickets is not a good reason to join a Parrot Head Club. Tickets are a perk of the national affiliation that could go away at any time. Additionally, there are a limited number of seats at each show and a growing number of clubs. This year's shortages was created by a scenario we hadn't previously considered. Buffett will play only one DC-VA-MD area show. One. There will be no stop at Merriweather for the first time in 20 years. That means that the 300 club seats reserved for PHCs at Nissan's Sept. 8 will be divided between clubs in Virginia, Maryland, D.C. and Pennsylvania. The 300 seats are being divided among clubs with memberships in excess of 1,600. Our share? 18 seats.

In the past, activity points have been used to determine seating at the shows. The members with the most points got the best seats. This year the points are being used for the first time to determine who qualifies for the club seats. It wasn't fun, but it is the only fair way to do it. Even some of our most active members, including some who have been helping lead this club, failed to make the cut this year. Hopefully, this is a one year problem, but the situation highlights the importance of your participation in club events.

Although we have a small number of club seats, we have reserved a bus and hope to have enough members acquire tickets to fill it.

Another change this summer is trying to combine the two highway clean ups. This is being done to eliminate the need to ask members to come out eight times a year to help meet our litter pickup commitment to VDOT. We also want to offer a flexible schedule to provide the best opportunity for all members to participate. In June we held the cleanups on alternate days on the same weekend. In September, we're planning to hold both on the same day. One will start in the morning and one in the afternoon, perhaps with a picnic to follow.

Other upcoming events are the popular Volleyball Phlocking that will again be held at the Middleburg Community Center on July 22. The Day on the Water sailing trip has

Continued on back page



Play Ball!

Glenn and Leza are coordinating a POD outing to the Frederick Keys Stadium on June 23. The stadium is 30 minutes north of Leesburg on Rt. 15 and offers a fun and relatively inexpensive outing for PODs of all ages. Baseballs will be give to the first 1000 fans that night. If you've never been there or to a minor league ballpark, you're missing out on some real fun. Games starts at 7:05. Contact Leza and Glenn immediately for details. Call 703-771-8731 or email: leza@fcc.net.

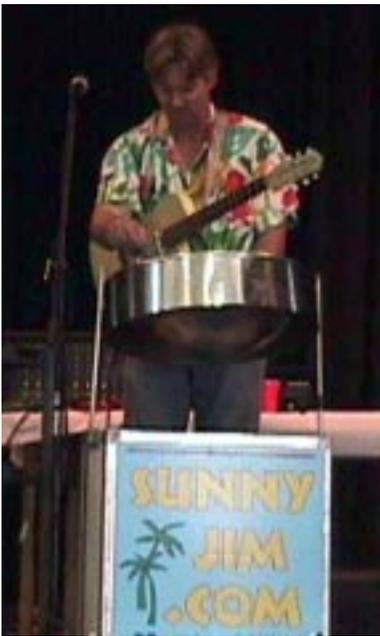
Beach Party

The Washington Area Parrot Head Club is holding a two-day beach party on June 22 & 23 right in our own back yard at the Holiday Inn in Manassas. Proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area. The event will feature six national and local bands (St. Somewhere, Jim Morris & the Big Bamboo Band, Calypso Nuts, Tropical Soul, Small Town, and Chris Gantzer), and both a "Cheeseburger in Paradise" luncheon on Saturday afternoon and a buffet dinner on Saturday evening are included in the cost of the event. Hours are 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday. Weather permitting; all events will be outside by the pool. Tickets are \$30 for Friday only, \$55 for Saturday only, or \$80 for the entire weekend. To purchase tickets or for more event information, go to www.waphc.com.



SUNNY JIM FOOLIN' AROUND IN THE VIRGIN (IA) ISLANDS!

APRIL 1, 2001
A BENEFIT FOR THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION



We filled the main hall at Middleburg Community Center for a laid back April Fools Day afternoon with Sunny Jim. Special thanks goes to John Friday for doing a great job opening. It was a great day. We even got a few people on the dance floor.





We took over the Village Lanes in Leesburg for our annual bowling outing in February. Glenn Horton took over the unofficial title as top club bowler, but he left a few pins standing.

Welcome Aboard

Introduce yourself to these new members at the next club event:

Hunter & Betty Bell, Manassas
 Sharon Fischer & Colin Burgess, Leesburg
 Curt & Kathy Lofgren, Clifton
 Rob Taylor & Ally Setien, Centreville

... and **Kelly Elizabeth Hernley** who joined the club April 25, weighing in at 6 pounds 6 ounces and a length of 19-3/4".



Growing Older . . . But Not Up

Sean Hernley	April 8	Ansleigh Peery	May 25	Patrick Wilshere	July 12
Betsy Morrison	April 12	Heather Blersch	May 26	Dave Petrey	July 17
Dave Hernley	April 21	Jimmy Black	May 30	Brenda Tackett	July 19
Diane Wilshere	April 21	Harold Schoepflin	May 30	Curt Lofgren	July 26
Kelly Hernley	April 25	Heather Moreland	May 31	Jessica Styer	July 28
Tracy Everheart	April 26	Raleigh Warner	June 1	Don Blersch	July 30
Corbin Lee	May 3	Mike Mularz	June 2	Robert Vaughn	July 31
Doug Loving	May 3	George Merriken	June 9	Skip Freidhof	August 3
Jack Hernley	May 4	Terry Umfleet	June 11	Sandi Grzybowski	August 9
Joan LaMay	May 8	Danielle Petrey	June 13	Jan Spitzer	August 10
Michael King	May 9	Joan Smith	June 20	Alicia Robidoux	August 10
Robert Harper	May 13	Cheryl Waddle	June 23	Wayne McKenna	August 18
Steven Munn	May 19	Greg Sheremeta	June 28	John Stuhlmuller	August 23
Heather Holder	May 22	Heather Balkham	June 28	Sandy Kayser	August 26
Amber Warner	May 23	Paula King	July 1	Jill Cole	August 27
Hunter Bell	May 24	Rob Taylor	July 8	Stephen Tursky	August 28
Jack LaMay	May 25	Bob Spitzer	July 9	Christy Pasquarello	August 31



Parrotheadism: The Early Years

[Buffett shows at King's Dominion are now part of parrothead folklore; perhaps Merriweather now falls into that category as well. Club founder Mike Peery offers this look back at the early years. A cold Corona is offered to anyone who can guess the record for most parrotheads crammed into a room for an overnight stay at Jarrell's Truck Stop, just stumbling distance from Kings Dominion's front gate.]

For a lot of us, it started early in life. Jimmy's early songs described a roguish romanticism with the sea and the tropics, from the standpoint of a Southern boy from a normal, middle-class upbringing. The big picture this represented was something to which a lot of us could relate, myself included. James White does an excellent job of describing this allure in pre-adolescence with his song, "Blackbeard's Navy." But when the pirate boy grew up, just a little bit, the allure remained, and became manifested in the lifestyle described in the music of Jimmy Buffett.

I was 12 years old when I first heard "Margaritaville." It was just another song, then and now;



I didn't pay much attention to it. Then two years later, Fins really caught my ear, so I bought the Volcano album, and the enlightenment process had begun. Soon I had Bubba's entire back catalog from ABC records, which at the time wasn't a whole lot, but it is the basis of what has become

a way of life, at least in terms of recreational life, for a lot of people, myself included. As a latitudinally-challenged, Southern boy, this was just the type of escapism that filled my daydreams. I wanted to be that guy who lived on a sub-tropical island, rode his bike from bar to bar, and lived with nary a care in the world. I had paradoxically set my goals on this hedonistic lifestyle that can never really be attained as it, in itself, is the antithesis of any means of achievement.

By the time 1981 had rolled around, I was a Buffett fan. I knew all the words to all the songs, lived the ideal of any landlocked 16 year-old beach-bum, and swore that some day I was going to drop out of society and end up in Key West (something that I still threaten to do on a daily basis.) Then, I had the opportunity to attend my first two Buffett shows that summer. As became the ritual for the 1980s, I saw Jimmy at Merriweather, then King's Do-

minion a week later. It was the King's Dominion show that could be considered a life-altering experience. I went alone; at 16, most of my friends equated Jimmy Buffett with Neil Diamond, and were more consumed with great musical acts such as Loverboy, Van Halen, or REO Speedwagon. I was befriended by an older (had to be in their twenties) married couple who showed me what a Buffett show was all about. The guy made me dance with his wife while he went to get me more beer. It was rough, but I managed. It was great to have someone so willingly contribute to my delinquency, as if it was his moral obligation. As I grew older, I realized that it was.

At this time, the term "Parrothead" had not yet been coined. I had become initiated as a member of the fraternity of "Jimmy Buffett fans." To me, it was the most compelling group of people I had ever met. Seemingly the only common bond they shared was that they all loved this guy's music, and the hedonism for which it stood. They were all ages, all sizes, all genders, all backgrounds; and they were all out to have a great time partying, without arguing, or vandalizing, or stealing, or hassling anyone. It amazed me that these people could party so hard and be so agreeable and peaceful in the process. King's Dominion was the perfect place to allow this activity in its natural form. They had an incredible system for beer sales in which lines were virtually nonexistent. The most subversive thing people did was wade in the long reflecting pool down International Street after the show; but even this was merely for relief from the crowded, and extremely hot atmosphere provided by King's Dominion's showplace in July. To their credit, the authorities did not hassle or arrest any waders, to the best of my knowledge. Harmony and cooperation existed between the fans having a good time, and the venues allowing the fans to have a good time.

Unfortunately, this is not always the case these days at the venues currently featuring Buffett shows. However, if you know where to look, you can still see evidence of the harmonious, friendly atmosphere that was the essence of those earlier shows, wherever Parrotheads congregate. I see strong signs of it at Meeting of the Minds every year. We've all grown older (but not up) and have adopted the "Party With a Purpose" mantra, the PHIP slogan. Just remember, in that slogan, "party" comes first.

Got a story to contribute? Submissions welcome.

Deadline for the next issue of the Palm Reader is Aug. 10.



Upcoming POD Events

June 23
June 30
July 22
Aug. 4
Aug. 25
Sept. 7
Sept. 8
Sept. 22

Frederick Keys Baseball Outing
Happy Hour, Winchester, 2-7 p.m.
Volleyball Phlocking, Middleburg CC
Day on the Water
Sunny Jim & Jim Morris, tba
Pre Concert Party, tba
Jimmy Buffett @ Nissan Pavilion
Highway Clean Up; Both Sites

Continued from Page 2

tentatively been scheduled for August 4 and may be held this year in the beautiful Solomons Island area. We will soon be forming a committee to work with other area clubs to plan the pre-concert events.

We'll send out detailed information via e-mail as soon as the details have been nailed down.

The Helm Committee has been meeting monthly, usually the first Friday of the month at locations alternating between Leesburg and Manassas. Meetings are announced on the PODlist and posted on the website. Your participation and ideas are always welcome and are important to the continuing success of our club.

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 community.



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