

# The Off-Beaten Path

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A Publication of the Chicago Parrot Head Club

December 2005



## Happy Holidays Parrot Heads!



### From The Captain's Chair

*"Tis the season to remember  
And to count up all the ports of  
call I've known  
And to thank his mercies tender  
For I'm never far from home*

Is it really the holiday season already?

It seems like just yesterday that we were all welcoming the arrival of 2005! And what an eventful twelve months it has been! Over the last year - from our individual high points to our lowest, and everything in between - the Chicago Parrot Head Club came through stronger and more vibrantly than ever before!

Heck... at this time last year, the Buffett concerts in Wrigley Field were a mere rumor! And now we eagerly await the concert's release on CD!

Typically, as the holidays approach, so many times you would hear the phrase... "I want..." or "I

need..." followed by the newest electronics items or other must have status symbol. But with 2005 coming to a very rapid close, that sentiment seems to have taken a new turn. I have heard more people say "I am thankful..." followed by friends, family, health, home or something of a more personal nature.

At some point over the last few weeks, I heard something that has stayed with me - "Be thankful and appreciate what you have been able to do for others".

So tonight, as we celebrate all that our parrot head family has to be thankful for, let's take a moment to appreciate all that we have accomplished...

• We raised more than \$10,000 at our 10th annual CocoBowl, and more than \$15,050 for our Memory Walk efforts! Both of these events set new club records!

- We raised \$3,000 for the victims of Hurricanes 2005!
- We shipped more than 200 pounds (and counting!) of items to our adopted platoon in Iraq and helped them feel a bit closer to home!
- We have overwhelmed organizations with our clothing and food drives!
- We have collected countless pop tops, toiletries and cell phones to help those in need!
- We reached out to our community and helped in so many ways that can not be measured by mere dollars or quantity!

Tonight, we are here to celebrate. To be thankful for our parrot head family and friends. And to appreciate all that we have been able to do together.

May your holidays be merry!  
And the coming year more wonderful than your wildest dreams!  
- Barb



## The Jingle Bell Game Rules!

Get a jingle bell with a safety pin at the sign in desk and pin it to your shirt. If you catch any one saying the word "NO" or "KNOW" you get their jingle bell! Try to be crafty at getting others to say the magic word! At the end of the meeting who ever has the most jingle bells wins a prize!

**GOOD LUCK!**





# The Off-Beaten Path



## Charity

This is how we Party with a Purpose

by Billy Brehm

### Clothing Drive

The clothing drive was a success after hitting a few bumps along the road and trying to find a spare freighter to move the clothes to the people that need them (that would be a truck, for those of you who don't speak pirate yet. Try and keep up). But with a little creativity, and a lot of messages and carrier pigeons, we made it happen. Which then led into all of those Hawaiian shirts! Some still had tags on them! And by our estimates, we had over 300 shirts!

### Hawaiian Shirt Donation

After initially arriving at our destination, we were led to the laundry building, and found that the idea of Hawaiian shirts is used by a fellow Buffett fan that runs the facility. The residents choose to work in the environment, and part of their uniform is to wear a shirt while they work. And as incentive, for being awarded employee of the month, get to choose and keep a shirt. Needless to say, the addition of all of these shirts to wear while listening to the music of the man himself, will make the Laundry building the place to be! Special thanks to our sister clubs for their donations as well. The outcome was tremendous!

### Misericordia Baking

We then moved to the galley (if I have to explain this word, someone will get it for sure), where our volunteers worked for several hours making and

packaging cookies! I have to say, they were impressed by our numbers and tenacity. We achieved much more than was expected, and they were VERY grateful. Thanks to all that came out on that day!!!



### Walter Payton Toy Drive

Then, on the very next day, 04 December. 05, in the cold and snow, the Charity sailed to Burnham Harbor and our members took up posts outside Soldier Field to collect toys for the Walter Payton Foundation. I commend all those that were present, and braved the cold! On a good note, The CHICAGO BEARS beat up on the Green Bay Packers and sent those cheeseheads back where they belong.

### Northern Il. Food Bank

Also, get ready for the Northern Illinois Food Bank. They will be getting hit hard throughout December, so they will need a resupply ship to come through in January. And we will be there for them!!! More details to come, watch your e-mails.

### CocoBowl is Coming!

And the main event... CocoBowl is coming! As with all of our

events, we could use all of your help. We are starting to get donations, but can always use what our members give us also. And not just for CocoBowl, but for each and every meeting. So keep that in mind, let me know if you have ideas or something to give! And plan on CocoBowl. March 4th!!!! Don't forget to pick up your registration form at the check in desk!

### Club Contributions

Lastly, while the great ship Charity sits idle in port until next month, never forget that the crew members are ALWAYS hard at work getting items and ideas for the future of this organization. AND THIS MEANS YOU! It's that time of year! Extras are in abundance. Put those items to the side for next time... pop tops, clothing, toiletries, cell phones. Get ready to save that extra food for January. And people are in the spirit to give. Why not give to us? Items we can give back for participating in our club. And items we can auction for our causes at Cocobowl. And... while I am watching the ship on New Years Eve, and you all are out celebrating and toasting the New Year (I am actually working.) 1. Kiss someone for me, my co workers are okay, but don't do it for me. And 2. Think about making that resolution to do more this year. We always think about ourselves, but let's get this ship up to speed and set sail to really help those less fortunate.



# The Off-Beaten Path



## Social Events

### Villa Olivia Snow Tubing

Come out for an evening of fun on the snow! We are having a club social at Villa Olivia for 2 hours of down hill snow tubing. This is a Keet Phriendly event so bring out the whole family! The cost is \$17.75 adults and keets 6 and up. For keets 5 and younger the cost is \$3.25 each and are required to ride with an adult.

We will be hitting the slopes on January Saturday 28, 2006 from 6:00-8:00 PM. Get there early so you can claim your tube to conquer the mountain. You are not allowed to bring your own tube. Happy hour will follow soon after. You can sign up tonight or email ay member of the crew.

1401 W. Lake St., Bartlett, 60103  
630-289-1000

-Trudi

### Meet the Band

Know of a band that you just got to tell everyone about it? Let's make it a club social! If you have a friend that is in a band that simply rocks, and you if you think it would make a fun club social, let us know! It doesn't have to be "Buffett" type music. All types of genre are welcome!

- Trudi

### One Particular Harbor

Do you have a One Particular Harbor you would like us to have a club social at? If so, please contact any one of the crew members and we will be happy to help you organize the event!

-Trudi

### I Shot 6 Holes in My Freezer 2006

That's right, winter is fast approaching and with it comes one of the biggest party/fund-raisers in Wisconsin. On February, 18 2006 is the Loyal Order of the Caribbean Soul club in Wisconsin's "I Shot Six Holes in My Freezer" Pool Party.

It will be held at the Best Western, 3900 Milton Avenue, Janesville, Wisconsin 53546.

For reservations call toll free 800-334-4271 or fax to 608-756-0025. Ask for a room in the LOCS/Parrot Head block. Party starts at 6 PM and goes until midnight. Hotel check-in after 3:00 PM

For More info go to [www.locs-buffett.org](http://www.locs-buffett.org).

### Halfway to Phlocking

The Phlocking of the Phaithful Committee Presents the 3rd Annual "Halfway to Phlocking"

January 27 and 28, 2006 at The Commodore Perry Inn & Suites 255 W. Lakeshore Drive Port Clinton, Ohio 43452 (adjacent to the Jet Express boarding area).

There will be raffles for free Phlocking registrations and a variety of good "stuff" Proceeds will help fund the 2006 Phlocking.

A block of rooms are reserved at the Commodore Perry in the name of the "Phlocking." Rates will be \$44.95 for standard rooms and include a continental breakfast bar. Please call either 419-732-2645 or 1-866-385-3101.

For more info go to [www.phlocking.com](http://www.phlocking.com).

### Havana DayDreamin

Once again the Quad City Parrot Head Club is gearing up for the annual Havana DayDreamin' winter fund raiser! The event will take place on February 4, 2006 at The River Center starting at 7:00 PM until midnight.

Entertainment by Boat Drunks, with Special Guests from Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer Band.

Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. Tickets available now at QCPH and at Hy-Vee stores beginning in January. Reserved seating available for \$175 per table (includes admission for 8).

River Center, 136 E. 3rd Street, Davenport, Iowa

For more info go to: [www.qcph.com](http://www.qcph.com) or (888) 945-9159

### They're Growing Older But Not Up!

- 12/27 Micky O'Connor
- 12/30 Don OBrill
- 12/30 Judy Baikie
- 12/31 Lisa Horn
- 1/1 Jim Whaley
- 1/2 Nancy Ray
- 1/3 Irene Huba
- 1/5 Marianne Sheely
- 1/5 Ryan Hill
- 1/6 Ray Hayes
- 1/8 Trudi Schoening
- 1/8 Cameron Needham
- 1/12 George Wilkinsoner



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!**

If you didn't see your birthday listed here, then we do not have it. Please see a Crew Member to be sure you are included!



# The Off-Beaten Path



## A Letter From our Platoon!

Our platoon has just received our latest batch of goodies that were sent immediately after the November club meeting. I hope you will all enjoy seeing their note. Also, our contact included some suggestions for what we can send in the future. (Special call for help to anyone with a DVD Recorder! Please Contact Barb for any questions.



**Dear Parrot Heads,**

*Thank you again for your generosity. Your thoughtfulness goes a long way to making life more comfortable in a very tough environment. To answer your question, we do have access to a microwave, and popcorn is an excellent addition to movie night!*

*Just some thoughts for items in the future. We have our share of junk food, but could use some*

*relief from MREs. The spicy Korean/Chinese cup of noodles, microwavable cans of soup & chili are great. Another favorite is refried beans, nacho cheese corn chips or flour tortillas (Mexican night!) Summer sausage and cheese, mmmmm... We have a lot of coffee drinkers in our group many of whom like flavored creamer. (Irish cream, French vanilla, chocolate etc).*

*Speaking of movie night, DVDs are always a welcome treat. They don't always have to be movies. If there are folks in your organization who have the capability of recording TV shows and football games, those DVDs are very popular over here as well. That and/or TV series on DVD. I mentioned the previous because it is not as expensive.*

*I just finished reading your newsletter and it looks like you have a fun group of folks. I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season, and great New Year.*

*I am including a few pictures. I don't remember if I sent you any previously, so please excuse any duplicates you might receive.*

*Respectfully,  
CW3 Frank Wilson*

**\*\*\*REMEMBER!!** Please no hand sanitizer! They are flammable and not allowed to be shipped.

### New Peter Mayer Christmas CD

For me, the holiday season officially started on Sunday, December 4th - coincidentally, the same night that Peter Mayer brought his annual "Stars & Promises" concert back to Lemont, IL. Several CPHC members were in attendance and were



treated to an evening of original and traditional holiday music performed by a group of

amazingly talented musicians.

For several years now, we've enjoyed the music of his holiday "tour" entitled Stars & Promises, from CD to the live CD, to the DVD as well as the live performances. This year brings a wonderful new addition to Peter's holiday collection, a new instrumental CD entitled Echoes of the Season. It features the regular musicians that have appeared on the S&P tours over the years including Jim Mayer, R.Scott Bryan, Mark Holland, and Emily Randle, as well as

fellow reefers Roger Guth, Mac McAnally, Tina Gullickson and Nadirah Shakoar. Many thanks to Lisa Alvey for working with the church and doing her best to get the word out.

For more information, to hear audio clips, or to order Echoes of the Season, call 877-548-3565, or visit Peter's website at [www.petermayer.com](http://www.petermayer.com) or [www.littleflock-music.com](http://www.littleflock-music.com). This CD makes a great stocking stuffer or New Year's gift! The cost is \$15, plus shipping.



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## Dis and Dat!

### Congratulations!

There is a new parakeet in the Parrot Head Family - Mallory Espn Stocky, congratulations to proud parents Bill and Ginger Stocky who welcomed their little girl into the world on November 17. Bill is a longtime of our club, and the Vice President of the Northwest Indiana Club.

- Karen Boylan

### Island Beach Bash

The Sharks on the Rock are having an Island Beach Bash benefiting the Special Olympics on Saturday, February 25th at 7:00 PM. It's being held at the Tebala Shrine Center in Rockford. Advanced tickets will sales are going on now and run through February 24th 2006.

Tickets can be ordered ahead of time 4 different ways:

1. At Diamond Dave's at the Colonial Village Mall in Rockford, IL
2. At Kobycos Windows and Doors, 4131 N. Perryville Rd, Loves Park. 815-654-5151



3. Call us at 815-335-7552
  4. Find any member of the Northern IL Parrot Head Club
- For more info visit [www.niphc.com](http://www.niphc.com)

### MUSH MON!

"Margaritaville has Sponsored the Jamaican Dog Sled Team!

They already have a bobsled team. Now they have a dog sled team.

Margaritaville is proud to announce their sponsorship of the first ever Jamaican Dog Sled Team. The team, composed of dogs rescued from Jamaican pounds, is currently training on the island in preparation for competition in Scotland later this year.



### Tree Decorating at Brookfield Zoo

Now, normally I'm completely opposed to doing anything Christmas related before Thanksgiving. It's a male thing. But as I have learned time and time again, when Parrot-heads are involved, nothing is normal. On a cool November afternoon About 15 Parrot-heads converged on Brookfield Zoo for some "interesting" tree trimming. With Jimmy Buffett Christmas tunes playing in the

background, the tree quickly filled up with leis and cheeseburger ornaments. Many people stopped dead in their tracks to compliment us on our unique decorations. Most of them were admiring the parrot sitting atop the tree, secured in place by means not legal in some states. (don't ask, cause I ain't tellin'). And for the finishing touches, a skull and crossbone flag placed in his wing. It was without a doubt the most memorable tree in the zoo. We won't get into

### YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD PILOT HOUSE CREW

Barb Popescu - President  
Barb@chicagoparrotheads.com

Mike Bresnahan - Treasurer  
Mike@chicagoparrotheads.com

Trudi Schoening - News Letter Editor  
Trudi@chicagoparrotheads.com

Billy Brehm - Charity Director  
Billy@chicagoparrotheads.com

Micky Oconnor - Membership  
Micky@chicagoparrotheads.com

**We still are in need of a Social Chair and a Webmaster.**

If any one is interested or if you know of any one that would be suitable for these positions send an email to [crew@chicagoparrotheads.com](mailto:crew@chicagoparrotheads.com) or call the club hotline at 630-729-3156.

### New Membership

The crew has started thinking of new ways to increase membership. We are thinking of an event or drive that will bring in new members. Soon we will be asking for your help to recruit people to be a part of our family!

the gorilla incident except to say that we all had a really good time.

After the zoo, we met up at Rascals for happy hour to enjoy the rest of the day. With any luck our parrot will survive until sometime after Christmas when he can be taken down and properly "retired". Before we left the zoo people were already wondering what we were going to do next year. Well, just wait and see.

- Mike *AKA the responsible one*



# The Off-Beaten Path



*On the first day of the radiothon this year, the Chicago Parrot Head Club presented a check to St. Jude's. Next year we will discuss becoming a partner in Hope!*

I listened to US 99.5 at work all day on Friday and again on Saturday morning in the hope that I could get all those tears out of the way before I showed up at Gurnee Mills for my volunteer shift on Saturday afternoon - not that that worked very well.

As always, it was an incredible day and while I cried with the woman who called to donate in honor of her 18 month old grandson who is battling cancer and in memory of her husband who had just passed away from cancer 3 days ago, I also rejoiced with the woman who called to renew her Partner in Hope to celebrate another year in remission. I laughed as I patiently waited for the 9 year old child who was donating her birthday money to spell out her name and address with cartoon characters "D like Donald Duck, E like Eyore, B like, um, um B just like B, you know, that buzzes around in the summer". I smiled to see our Chicago parakeets, Amanda, Delaney and Tiffany helping by passing out drinks and cookies and taking away trash and Austin being passed among the volunteers and putting a smile on everyone's face. How touching to see all the children dumping their little handfuls of coins into the collection and hearing the stories of the volunteers who come out every year to help and who are so personally affected by cancer.

What a thrill it was to hear the phones ringing off the hook after my on-air challenge to Parrotheads throughout the US 99.5 listening area to pick up their phones and donate, right now!

And my heart swelled with pride at the honor one of our fellow Chicago Parrothead Club members bestowed on me. When I returned home and checked my email I found the most incredible note. It was from one of our members telling me that after volunteering her time that morning, on the way home she heard Lisa Dent mention that "Susi" of the Chicago Parrotheads had just become a Partner in Hope in memory of her dad who died of cancer". She said she had been trying to decide how much she could donate, and that after hearing that she figured that if I could donate my time AND become a Partner in Hope that she could do the same too. She told me she became a Partner in Hope in my honor. How awesome is that! And, since we donated during a doubling time that's over \$1400 between the two of us! Truly the power of Parrotheads working together! Thank you so much for that incredible honor.

Thanks to US 99.5, Lisa Dent, Ray and Big John, Lisa Kosty and all the rest of the station volunteers for putting on their 2 day radiothon, and the generosity of the volunteers who donated their

time and money, everyone who called in to become a Partner in Hope or make a donation, and everyone in Gurnee Mills who stopped by to drop off whatever they could to add to the effort. We broke all records and raised over \$1.3 million dollars this year. In the aftermath of all the natural disasters this year, and all the donations made to the recovery efforts, that is an amazing total.



Scott Henderson and Jean Motal smile as they take pledges from callers

I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to join us in this incredibly rewarding experience next year. Even if you don't feel comfortable answering phones and taking pledges, there are plenty of other things you can do to help out that day. And while I know we donate to St. Jude every year, I'd like to put forth the suggestion that next year the Chicago Parrothead Club becomes a Partner in Hope. What better way to give the gift of hope throughout the year, not just at radiothon time.



- Susi O'Neil



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## UP COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>DECEMBER</b>		20 7:30-MONTHLY CLUB MEETING & Holiday Party at North Beach Downers Grove	21	22	23	24  Christmas Eve
	25 Christmas Day  Jimmy's Birthday	26	27	28	29	30
1 New Years Day! 2006 <b>JANUARY</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7 Pirates over 40 Chestnut Mountain Resort 9:00 PM Galena, IL
8	9	10 News Letter articles DUE TODAY!!	11	12	13	14 Mr. Myers 9 PM - 1 AM KeyWester Naperville
15	16	17 7:30-MONTHLY CLUB MEETING at North Beach Downers Grove	18	19	20	21 Beach Bum Band 9:00 PM Cheeseburger in Paradise in Downers Grove
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 6-8 PM Snow Tubing at Villa Olivia Half way to Plocking @ OH
29 Halfway to Plocking at Port of Clinton, Ohio.	30	31	<b>FEBRUARY</b>		3	4 Havana DayDreamin, Davenport, Iowa

For the latest entertainment news, check out these web sites:

### SAVE THESE DATES!

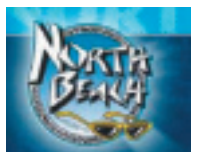
- JAN. 14 2006 Mr. Myers at KeyWester
- JAN. 17 2006 January Club Meeting
- JAN. 28 2006 Snow Tubing at Villa Olivia
- JAN. 28-29 2006 Halfway to Plocking
- FEB. 4 2006 Havana DayDreamin, Davenport, Iowa
- FEB. 25 2006 NIPHC Island Beach Bash, Rockford
- MAR. 4 2006 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cocobowl

All Dates Subject to Change

- [www.mrmyers.com](http://www.mrmyers.com)
- [www.piratesover40.com](http://www.piratesover40.com)
- [www.beachbumband.com](http://www.beachbumband.com)
- [www.boatdrunks.com](http://www.boatdrunks.com)
- [www.odtapoimi.com](http://www.odtapoimi.com)
- [www.matthall.net](http://www.matthall.net)
- [www.southofdisorderband.com](http://www.southofdisorderband.com)
- [www.a1a-live.com](http://www.a1a-live.com)

AND

- [www.northbeachclub.com/downers](http://www.northbeachclub.com/downers)
- [www.cheeseburgerinparadise.com](http://www.cheeseburgerinparadise.com)
- [www.margaritaville.com](http://www.margaritaville.com)
- [www.blarneyisland.com](http://www.blarneyisland.com)
- [www.phip.com](http://www.phip.com)





MCA/CPHC  
PO Box 6313  
Villa Park, IL. 60181



## *The Off-Beaten Path*



**DECEMBER 2005**



**Notice:** If there is a date next to your name, and it matches the date of this newsletter, it's a sign! It's a sign that your membership is due for renewal. Please submit your dues within the next 30 days to keep your membership in good standing. The other number on your label indicates the number of points you have accumulated for the current year. If you need more information or have a question about points, please see Micky O'Connor.

The Midwest Caribbean Association/Chicago Parrot Head Club is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to assist in community outreach programs and to provide for its members a means of social interaction for people interested in Jimmy Buffett's music and tropical spirit. Annual dues are \$25 for a single member, or \$35 for a couple or household. For more details, call the Club Hotline at 630-729-3156 or write to: MCA/CPHC, PO Box 6313, Villa Park IL 60181. You can also email us at club@chicagoparrotheads.com, or visit our website at www.chicagoparrotheads.com. WELCOME!