



The Off-Beaten Path

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From the Captain's Chair

Several people have asked me what is going to happen when Jimmy finally decides to retire. Who will pick up the reigns and guide us parrotheads to that One Particular Harbor in our soul? Came across an article and I thought I'd share. That and I'm in a time crunch and I just can't get a full article done. See everyone in the Keys!

Finz,
Mike

"Kenny Chesney - chart topper and bar hopper."

It starts out like the beginning of a really bad joke: So I'm on my way to a Country Music Concert wearing an old straw hat...

I have this beat up straw hat that has accompanied me on many tropical vacations and forays to the beaches and bars of the East End. It's beat up and bent, like someone sat on it or slept on it one

too many times. I turn to my wife as she parks the truck in the train station and say, "Maybe I should just throw it out." She looked at the pathetic hat and then looked up at me. "No," she said, knowing that I really don't want to toss the old hat, I'm just looking for someone to affirm the poor girl has a little life left inside her. "Keep it."

We leave the car and head for New York City and Kenny Chesney, the Academy of Country Music Entertainer of the Year, towing along my hat and an emptied orange juice container that I refilled with Margarita. I'd never seen the guy in concert before. My wife and some friends of ours who share her affection for popular Country Music introduced me to his music over the summer. Sitting by the ocean, drinking beer and tropical drinks, I have to admit that the easy-going sounds of Kenny Chesney got into my blood. Chesney cites "The Old Man And The Sea" as one of his

favorite books, and, of course, he loves the ocean. He begs a comparison to that other Country Music pirate, Jimmy Buffett. Both have charming lyrical songs that speak of tropical islands, drinking and narrate a simple life. I have no problem with any of that stuff so I am easily sucked into the sounds. Chesney is enjoying a top-of-the-charts, top-of-the-world year. His concerts are sold out, his new album quickly shot up the charts and he already married and divorced a Hollywood star (Renee Zellweger). Some type of booze sponsors his current tour, the Flip-Flop Tour. The new album, titled "Just Who I Am: Poets & Pirates" is his eleventh studio album. Released here in the U.S. on September 11, 2007, on the first day, it sold more than 100,000 copies! It went on to sell over 380,000 copies by the end of the first week. On the streets of Manhattan our little group of concert-

searched out a bite to eat and perhaps a beer to chase down the "train" Margaritas. By chance a producer stopped us. They're filming an A&E special about Kenny Chesney outside of the concert and they're looking for fans to talk on camera. They really would like a man because, well, most of Chesney's fans are women and they'd like a different perspective. We plopped my beat up hat on my friend John and shoved him in front of the camera. He kicked butt, even getting a thumbs up from the cameraman and the director as he answered their questions. My contribution - besides the hat - was to hand the producer my card and tell her I'm a pretty decent writer if she ever needed one. I think I saw her putting the card to good use later on, scrapping gum off the bottom of her heels. Although Chesney doesn't have the kind of signature, sing-along, come-on-everybody-you-all-know-the-words, type of ditty like "Margaritaville", he's coming darn close. Jimmy Buffett wrote "Margaritaville" in 1977 in Key West, Florida. Transcending simple chart topping hit, this song is an iconic pop culture tune. The song described the laid-back lifestyle of the tropics, drinking and getting tattooed. Buffett also played Madison Square Garden last month.

Of course he doesn't need to promote any album to tour as his followers, the Parrotheads, need no particular reason to come out, listen to music and party-hardy. Come to think of it, neither do I. Therefore, ergo, I must be a Parrothead! One key element in the music of both Chesney and Buffett is the lifestyle they exude from the music and the stage. Buffett played the entire concert in t-shirt, yellow shorts and no shoes. Chesney wore flip-flops, forgoing the traditional Country Music staple footwear, boots. These are the guys you want around in the Keys (or on a beach in the Hamptons), with money to spend and time to spare. The second factor, only from a male perspective, is the quality of female fans that both of these guys attract. I have yet to see that many bikini tops, halter tops, and topless tops in the middle of New York City before. Describing Buffett only as a singer/songwriter would be doing him a disservice. He is also an author with three best sellers, movie producer, and businessman. His chain of restaurants based on two of his most popular songs have only added to his success. He rarely deviates from his set list but when he does, he never leaves out a core of about 8 to 10 songs. The great new ad-

ditional to his set list is his Alan Jackson duet "It's Five O'clock Somewhere," a line that I picked up on around age 21 from certain anonymous branches of my family tree. I am etching the lyrics of that song onto the doors of my liquor cabinet. Speaking of duets, Kenny Chesney and Uncle Kracker came up with a great one with the single, "When the Sun Goes Down." This tune may be the contender for Chesney to match Buffett. Chesney's "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems" from the album of the same name is a close second. Both are apropos of the philosophy of the artist. But you have to give kudos to the guy for his song, "Being Drunk's a Lot Like Loving You." I couldn't have put it better myself, Kenny. As expected, Kenny Chesney's concert is packed, we're in upper deck seats and the crowd is wild. Picture thousands of drunken, country fans in New York City, most of them female. Despite the cost, we need a constant flow of Garden beer and I make my way up to the concession stand between songs. "Hey man," a guy said to me. He was not on line so I couldn't have cut him off from the supply of beer. "I'll give you fifty bucks for your hat. I need a hat." I thought that one of us had been drinking too much. I knew

about my state of mind. Not perfect, little drowsy, but the reasonability sector of the gray matter was still operational. "Fifty bucks for your hat," he said again reaching into his pocket. The reasonability portion of his brain was obviously drowning. I look at his buddy who is as straight faced and serious as the Secret Service. Being this was New York, I glance behind me to make sure no one is picking my pocket. All I see is a grinning girl, looking like she's glad she got up for a beer just then because she's suspecting that she will have one hell of a story to tell tomorrow around the water cooler tomorrow. "I can't do that man," I said way too diplomatically. "You're drunk." This doesn't even register on him and the girl behind me is grinning even more. My "client" pulls out something that resembles money and curses. I think that it was too good to be true. "I don't have any change," he said staring at his crumpled pile of bills. "I'll have to give you sixty." He drunkenly unraveled three twenty-dollar bills from one another and handed them to me very purposely, one at a time. At that point I remembered my P.T. Barnum, "A fool and his beat up hat are soon parted." Like an inebriated Frosty the Snowman, he suddenly became invigorated by the some magic in the third life of the old hat. He and his friend make some noise and run off. We cross paths on my way

back to my seat with the beers and he thanked me again, very enthusiastically. I do not question the serendipity of the night. My hat, plucked from death by my wife's comment earlier, then made famous by the A&E channel, has departed from me but not without leaving a little gratitude in the form of three double-sawbucks. I now have my own Country lyric: I sold my old hat at a concert for three twenty dollar bills/Man, I miss that old hat sometimes when I think back at all of the thrills/All of the times we spent together/I always thought that it would last forever. I can't leave without bestowing a bit of wisdom from the official Jimmy Buffett website's FAQ:

How do I make the perfect margarita?

The Perfect Margarita

- 1) Fill shaker with broken cubed ice
- 2) Squeeze 2 fresh lime wedges into shaker
- 3) Add 2 oz. of Margaritaville Tequila Oro
- 4) Add 1/2 oz. Margaritaville Tequila Blanco (for bite if you wish)
- 5) Add 1 1/4 oz. of Roses Lime Juice

6) Add 1/2 oz. of Bols Triple Sec

7) Add a splash of Bols Orange Curacao

8) Cover shaker & shake vigorously

9) Rim glass with lime peel and salt, add fresh ice

10) Strain mixture over ice

11) Squeeze in 1 lime wedge

12) Enjoy

Jimmy Buffett will be releasing "Live In Anguilla," a double CD and 90 minute DVD, which is scheduled for a November 6th street date.

Kenny Chesney's "Just Who I Am: Poets & Pirates" is currently topping the Country charts.



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CHARITY PAGE: Party with a Purpose

(AKA GOOD DEEDS FOR THE DAY)

Charity Chair: Kurt Rubin

MEMORY WALK

Now normally you wouldn't see a bunch of parrotheads up at 10am on a Sunday to walk 3.2 miles. But this was no normal Sunday. We won't get into the fact that "normal" and "parrothead" don't generally go in the same sentence. So far we have raised over \$9,000 and growing. A huge FINS UP! to Mike "Rafone" Erickson and Bob Noonan for being our top two money raisers this year. And afterwards we all hopped on the Tiki Trolley and headed over to Trader Todd's to rest our weary feet and have a few drinks. And we even left Trader Todd's with a donation that I think will make a VERY nice Cocobowl prize.

COCOBOWL

And speaking of Cocobowl, Saturday, March 1st will be here before you know it. So be sure to save the date. Frank Whiting is already on board to play for us at the pool party.

And of course, we'll be partying with a purpose until the wee hours of the morning. Who will be the last man standing? Plus, it's never too early to start thinking about auction and raffle prizes. If you think someone would bid on it or spend a buck on a raffle ticket to win it, we want it! Registration forms for Cocobowl will be on the website soon as well as in the newsletter. Last year was standing room only so don't wait to get your team signed up! Oh yeah, let us know what charities we should give to this time around.

US 99 RADIOTHON FOR ST. JUDES

Just announced!! The dates for this year's US99 Radiothon for St. Jude's are Thursday, December 13th and Friday the 14th. If you have never manned the phones for St. Jude's before, you are in for one of the most powerful and reward-

ing experiences you will ever have. That's why so many of our members volunteer for several shifts. A few have been known to spend the entire two days there. It's not just about taking down pledges and credit card numbers. It's about talking to people who are giving from the bottom of their hearts. It's also about giving the children at St. Jude's, as well as their families, hope. So please sign up for whatever time you can give and tell your friends to call in and make a pledge. And as always, feel free to contact me about this or any other charity event.

And while we're on the subject of St. Jude's, we are still trying to finalize plans to do a fundraiser for the radio-thon. We hoped to have it put together before printing but it just didn't work out that way. But as soon as we do we will let you know.



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Attention Parrotheads We Have Announcements!!

MOTM

Register ASAP. Once registration is full, that is it! So hurry up and go to PHIP.com and get yourself signed up. This cost is only \$75 and that gets you in to some of the best parties in Key West. And speaking of some of the best parties, don't forget to sign up for the Great Lakes Sunset Cruise on Thursday November 1st. The cost for this is \$33 per person. This price is the same as it was last year. This includes all of your beer and wine for the two hour cruise. The boat leaves at 4:30 from the Conch Republic.

For those of you that are heading down to Key West for MOTM, could you please email Mike with the following information:

Name

Dates you'll be in Key West, Hotel name

Your cell phone number

We will be providing all of this information printed on a name tag so that everyone can keep in touch with each other, while we are Key West. In the past, we have found this to be very helpful. Besides, this is Key West, some nights you

need to be reminded yourself.

Lynfred Winery

Join us for a complimentary tour of the winery at 4:00 followed by a sampling of 7 different wines costing only \$7 in the Grand Tasting room. Also available are 4 spectacular "Wine Country" themed bed and breakfast suites and a gift shop for those holiday ideas.

Monthly Meeting

As most of you know, McNally's has changed ownership recently and is currently closed for at least two months for remodeling. For the time being we are meeting at the Elmhurst Public House which is on St. Charles rd. just a quarter mile west of rt. 83 on the north

side of the street. The meeting itself will be held in the back room. Next month we will be back at the Elmhurst Public house but this time we will be meeting on the FOURTH Wednesday of the month, the 28th. The third Wednesday is the day before Thanksgiving so we figured people either had other plans or just don't like to venture out on the busiest traffic day of the year. And December will be back to the third Wednesday. We are currently negotiating with the new owners of McNally's (or whatever the new name may be) about keeping our meetings there. Apparently the upstairs is NOT part of the remodeling project. We'll keep you posted on any developments.



The photo to the right was taken at Memory Walk '07.



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Announcements continued...

Misericordia Baking Day

Join us as we help out in the bakery at Misericordia! From Thanksgiving to Christmas, the bakery is in full swing to make the holiday goodies that are part of their holiday gift basket program.

On Saturday, December 1, we will help to scoop out cookie and cake batter, and help create other holiday confections. We will even help out in other areas of the kitchen such as decorating, and packaging and shipping. Baking experience or culinary talents are not necessary. So if the cosmic baker in you is looking for an outlet, we need you! Event will take place at Misericordia - 6300 North Ridge in Chicago. Event time is 9 am - 12 pm (noon), and of course a happy hour will follow. The bakery is located at Misericordia's main campus - 6300 North Ridge in Chicago. Sign-up begins at tonight's meeting. Space is limited, so please see me to sign up.

Because of the nature of this event, all volunteers must be high-school age or older. Also, because we are working in a kitchen, safety comes first. No grass skirts, hats, leis, etc. Also, long pants and closed-toe shoes are required.

Thanks!
Barb.



LET'S GIVE A HUGE WARM PARROTHEAD WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

Chris & Jennifer Clausel
Rob Marzaroli
Jeff & Amanda Siliko
Jennifer Wright

They're Growing Older But Not UP!

- 10/17 Jean Motal
- 10/22 Bob Dunbar
- 10/27 Bryan Banser; Laura Johnson
- 10/30 Doreen Warner
- 11/01 Bruce Miller
- 11/10 Carrie Jansen
- 11/12 Larry Eichelberger
- 11/13 Bill Dudley
- 11/14 Karen Boylan
- 11/16 Eric Heinz
- 11/17 Rob Hardman
- 11/19 Bret Mitchell
- 11/21 Tricia Miller



Happy Birthday!!!

If your birthday's not listed here, then we don't have it. Please see a crew member to be sure you're included!

YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD PILOT HOUSE CREW

Mike Bresnahan- President
Mike@chicagoparrotheads.com

Ed Wilmot- Treasurer
Ed@chicagoparrotheads.com

Doreen Warner- Newsletter Editor
Doreen@chicagoparrotheads.com

Billy Brehm- Social Director
Billy@chicagoparrotheads.com

Kurt Rubin- Charity Director
Kurt@Chicagoparrotheads.com

Micky O'Connor- Membership
Mickey@chicagoparrotheads.com

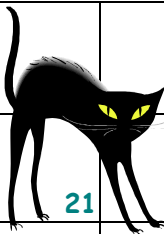


Travis Noparstak- Member at Large
Travis@chicagoparrotheads.com



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UP COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		October	Monthly Meeting @ Elmhurst Public House 17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	Lynfred Winery 27
28	29	30	HAPPY HALLOWEEN 	MOTM 1st-4th 31	MOTM 1st-4th 1	MOTM 1st-4th 2
MOTM 1st-4th 4	5	6		8	KOTM @ Trader Todd's 9	10
11	12	One Particular Tuesday @ CBIP 13		15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

www.Mrmyers.com

www.piratesover40.com

www.beachbumband.com

www.boatdrunks.com

www.odtapoimi.com

www.matthall.net

www.southofdisorderband.com

www.a1a-live.com

www.cheeseburgerinparadise.com

www.margaritaville.com

www.blarneyisland.com

www.phip.com

Check out our MySpace at myspace.com/chiphc

Check out the current newsletter online at www.chicagoparrotheads.com

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MCA/CPHC
PO Box 6313
Villa Park, IL 60181

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October 2007



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, P.O. Box 6313, Villa Park, IL 60181. You can also email us at club@chicagoparrotheads.com, or visit our website at www.chicagoparrotheads.com. WELCOME!

