

Latitude 41° 53' N Longitude 87° 38' W



Midwest Caribbean Association

Volume 18 Issue 12

Captain's Logbook

Thirty-seventh Entry: December 21, 2011

Although not Thanksgiving, I want to simply thank all of you, my friends and readers, for sharing in this, your club. It is the holiday season, and we welcome all denominations, all races, creeds, etc. ad hoc, ad nauseum. . . . . under a willingness to share in our love for that one particular harbor, wherever it may be, that brings us peace. That harbor was there before Jimmy Buffett, but he gave it sound and lyrics, and now we all flock to coasts to be pirates and never arrive too late, with just a few friends. I am always happy to know that when we can't be on some faraway beach, we have a place here in Chicago to enjoy that common thread that brings us together. Whatever you celebrate, Happy Holidays, and thank you for being my friend.

Bloody Bill, *The Pirate King*

I would like to close with a story (sorry Julie. . . . hope you have room!). I usually have something quirky or a quote, and I considered the story of the Christmas Tree Boat, which sunk in Lake Michigan outside Twin Rivers, WI. long ago. But with so many families, including my own, affected by these wars, I thought this one would be appropriate. . . . . the World War I Christmas Miracle.

During World War I, in the winter of 1914, on the battlefields of Flanders, on of the most unusual events in all of human history took place. The Germans had been in a fierce battle

with the British and French. Both sides were dug in, safe in muddy, man-made trenches six to eight feet deep that seemed to stretch forever.

. . . . "I was gazing toward the German lines and thinking what a different sort of Christmas Eve this was from any I had experienced in the past when suddenly lights began to appear along the top of the German trenches - these were Christmas trees which were adorned with lighted candles burning steadily in the still, frosty air! Other guards had, of course, seen the same thing, and quickly awoke those asleep in the shelters, to 'come and see this thing which had come to pass.' Then suddenly our opponents began to sing 'Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht' (Silent Night). They finished their carol and we thought that we ought to retaliate in the same way, so we sang 'The First Nowell,' and when we finished they all began clapping. And so it went on. First the Germans would sing one of their carols and then we would sing one of ours, until we started up with 'O Come All Ye Faithful' and the Germans immediately joined in singing the same hymn to the Latin words 'Adeste Fideles.' And I thought, well, this was really a most extraordinary thing - our nations both singing the same carol in the middle of a war."

Incredibly, many of the Germans, who had worked in England before the war, were able to speak good enough English to propose a "Christmas Truce." The British and French troops, all along the miles of trenches, accepted. In a few places, Allied troops fired at the Germans as they crawled out of their trenches. But the Germans were persistent and Christmas would be celebrated even under the threat of impending death.

Signboards arose up and down the trenches in a variety of shapes. They were usually in English, or - from the Germans- in fractured English. Rightly, the Germans assumed that the other side could not read traditional gothic lettering, and that few English understood

spoken German. "You no fight, we no fight" was the most frequently employed German message. Some British units improvised "Merry Christmas" banners and waited for a response. More placards on both sides popped up.



A spontaneous truce resulted. Soldiers left their trenches, meeting in the middle to shake hands. The first order of business was to bury the dead who had previously been unreachable because of the conflict. Then, they exchanged gifts, chocolate cake, cognac, postcards, newspapers, tobacco. In a few places, along the trenches, soldiers exchanged rifles for soccer balls and began to play games

It didn't last forever. In fact some of the generals didn't like it at all and commanded their troops to resume shooting at each other. After all, they were in a war. Soldiers eventually did resume shooting at each other. But only after, in a number of cases, a few days of wasting rounds of ammunition shooting at stars in the sky instead of soldiers in the opposing army across the field.

For a few precious moments there was peace on Earth and good will toward men. All because the focus was on Christmas. Happens every time. There is something about Christmas that changes people. A celebration of the human spirit, the Christmas Truce remains a moving manifestation of the absurdities of war. A very minor Scottish poet of Great War vintage, Frederick Niven, may have got it right in his "A Carol from Flanders," which closed,

O ye who read this truthful rhyme  
From Flanders kneel and say;  
God speed the time when every day  
Shall be as Christmas Day.



## Sock It To Me Contest

It's no doubt that the footwear of choice for most parrot heads is flip flops (or Birks or crocs or anything else that lets you flaunt those tootsies in the sun.) Unfortunately due to our Northern latitude it comes a time we have to pack up the pedicures and protect our piggies from winter's chill. Nothing is sadder than that first morning that you realize summer is truly gone and the feet can no longer handle the chill without a protective layer of cotton. Let's face it you can play the tough guy and hold out, but if you lose your big toe to frostbite, it is gonna be tough keeping those flip flops on next summer. So with a longing for warmer days, you open your sock drawer and winter is just a little crueller that day.

Well, the Chicago Parrot Head Club is rebelling. Now to clarify we are not saying skip the socks - let's not get crazy, we are tropical birds and we like to stay warm..... but toss the drab gray woolies, leave the white gym socks at the gym and those navy knee-highs forget about them. Add some color, put on a little excitement, and go for socks that make you feel like the tropics. Personally I feel that nothing gives old man winter the bird like a pair of socks dotted with flamingos. That being said we are proud to announce our first ever SOCK CONTEST. To be held at the January Club meeting - at the Elmhurst Public House.



Rules are simple - put on some fancy, silly, colorful, tropical or whatever socks and flaunt your feet at the meeting. Prizes for the wackiest, most tropical and the most HOLE-Y - for those darn socks that need to be darned!

## Chiditarod

### Making a Mush of Everything

What is the Chiditarod? Well you have heard of the Iditarod, Alaskan Dog Sled Race right? The Iditarod is the famous long-distance race in which yelping dogs tow a sled across Alaska. Chiditarod is pretty much the same thing, except that instead of dogs, it's people; instead of sleds, it's shopping carts; and instead of Alaska, it's Chicago. Chiditarod is a one-of-a-kind event dedicated to self-expression, reclaiming our city for freaks of all varieties, food-drive for our city's disadvantaged, and creating copious amounts of epic. So it is part race, part costume contest, part pub crawl, part food drive all things that us fun loving Parrot Heads Love.

The Seventh Annual Chiditarod will be held Saturday March 3, 2012. While this is a grass roots event and details like exact time and location are not announced until the day before - we can tell you it is around 10 a.m. until 2 or 3. The carts can revival floats in any major parade and the costumes are fantastic. Not to mention it is just plain fun. So we are participating. WE will need a team of 6 to pull the cart, 50 lbs. of food to fill our cart. Accomplices and helpers to hide our food and deliver it to us along the way and hang out with us in the bars... costumes, a decorated cart and some ideas to sabotage the other teams (it is allowed practically encouraged.)



## Support the Bands and Businesses that Support Chicago Parrot Heads!

[www.localfavoriteband.com](http://www.localfavoriteband.com)  
[www.cheesburgerinparadise.com](http://www.cheesburgerinparadise.com)  
[www.margaritaville.com](http://www.margaritaville.com)  
[www.blarneyisland.com](http://www.blarneyisland.com)  
[www.phip.com](http://www.phip.com)  
[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.southofdisorderband.com](http://www.southofdisorderband.com)  
[www.gone2paradise.net](http://www.gone2paradise.net)  
[www.flipflopstikibar.com](http://www.flipflopstikibar.com)  
[www.cabanacharleys.com](http://www.cabanacharleys.com)  
[www.phinstothewest.com](http://www.phinstothewest.com)

### Candy Cane Swirl

1 oz. SKYY Infusions  
 Raspberry  
 3 oz. Red Cranberry Juice  
 0.5 oz. Grenadine  
 0.5 oz. Peppermint Schnapps  
 Lemon Lime Soda  
 Candy Canes

Rim martini glass with crushed candy cane. Combine SKYY Vodka, Peppermint Schnapps, Cranberry Juice and Grenadine into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake vigorously and strain into martini glass. Top with Lemon Lime Soda and garnish with small peppermint candy cane.

## Eleven in Review

We have had great fun and success in 2011 supporting our Charities and we will continue our support in 2012. The charities we have helped thru the year are very grateful and we always get that warm and fuzzy feeling when helping others. "Party with a Purpose" could not be any truer than what we do during the year. Thank you to all Chicago Parrot Heads and friends.



Bob Noonan  
 Mr. Give Until  
 It Hurts

The baking day at Misericordia was both fun and a great success. We had 12 happy bakers working to help Misericordia get ready for the Holiday season. We will continue to do this event again in 2012 which is usually held during the month of November or December. Look to our web site or newsletter for updates.

In November we also had the "Rock for Kids" event at Margaritaville. It was our first event with Margaritaville here in Chicago and we were told they would love to work with us in 2012. Thank you Rick and Bev Kleinman for all their work on this fundraiser.

Also, it's not too early to plan - the Rockford biggest charity event called "Island Beach" is set for Saturday, February 25, 2012. Look to our website or Rockford's for more details. This event helps many of our Charities in the area.

We are also looking to help, in some way, other charities in the Chicago area. Please send any charity suggestions to me or another Crew member.

It is my goal to finalize some charity event dates and post in the next newsletter a list of all our scheduled 2012 Charity events so everyone will have plenty of time to plan for these events.

The registration for MOTM 2012 begins on January 2, 2012 and will be November 1-4, 2012. It is time to start saving money for the annual trip to Key West or ask Santa for airfare to Key West. "Trip around the Sun" is the theme for 2012 MOTM.



Chicago Parrot Heads  
 at the Brookfield Zoo  
 Tree Decorating/  
 Scavenger Hunt

photo courtesy of  
 Sharon Klupar



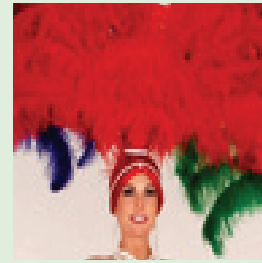
## Puzzle Time - Holiday-ish Movies

(Nothing to do with Jimmy Buffett, Pirates, Islands or Adult Beverages)

SMSQOPILRTRSEFUSXMXWZICOMSQIFSLADTVGZTUEEUXTNSATHODWKECVLPTLGEMJAHAWHRCSPUOCNIAIGZHRWRGHJRJRJTWLKVEPMNNLNLTEEJQROSBUGSKI VHEFSDANI IODAAKEAHQOIOBLJISKGG OOZMWIDGHEHELBRCUCEHNGPEKNOAQZNM YDMLIRLSXZIAHPBLXMEDIJYIALUJAH IYEPIFHIEFRRRHYAHDOS SZONNLGNE EQSISINMCOVIOHEQWCVDHAMTBOEPI M OLTJMSDSCGSEQTGXSIIURKHNRIFLOU RYWWGMAZFTNRNKCWPTSCXECEUTDIPO DRAHEIDFMBTIUTXORRTFVLWMGAOJSP BADSANTAIXBKVJEEDHEIRRTDECOOXSR OCKYBSIGLDQEICGRCNSPOLSAGPJHSA I LONGAMLEETSVINTEOSEYOSVSCIF NNIYADILOHVIKJEROUNRISYTSWHCR JINGLEALLTHEWAYRUAJXTSCPEALKCW DYZGEJDHQGFDFHSEESDAWSHMPMBQFK JIMZTDMOZEYFPBFWUURBLARUBTJOPN MNGEBPSSVOYKYKXLUGHABOBLIRRSWION ITDNLGNBWL CWRAPRCEPHMTSGO IYGZK THGINYDOOLBTHGINTNELISTGTRSKCG OUQPMLOVEACTUALLYFWLSNMCHHSUFN XVLEZSNZDFEVSAFLQFWXKVAUECRJOX WGROHGMZSLBQWRIQGIGENDSIRTYEFE QWCYJTPFKNAHMOIHGFOXYZSASNHUJH VTAFSIXUOJFUZYGFPARSLBTNGDBWEO NUTCRACKERPZTMXCNCREMUOEIDQHFR JORWXDUNAOJHJYCTIGVWORIFDKOLE MEMAMEITNUAUOQTNDYJMMC YVQCDDPO

Auntie Mame  
Bad Santa  
Christmas Story  
Christmas Vacation  
Die Hard  
Doctor Zhivago  
Eight Crazy Nights  
Elf  
First Blood  
Goodfellas  
Gremlins  
Grumpy Old Men  
Heidi  
Holiday Inn  
Home Alone  
In Bruges  
Jingle All the Way  
Lassie  
Lethal Weapon  
Love Actually

Mean Girls  
Mixed Nuts  
Moonstruck  
Nutcracker  
Odessa File  
Polar Express  
Prancer  
Rent  
Rocky  
Santa Claws  
Scrooged  
Serendipity  
Silent Night Bloody Night  
Stalag Seventeen  
Steel Magnolias  
Step Brothers  
Surviving Christmas  
The Victors  
Toys  
White Christmas



Vicki Kerr  
Membership Diva

Happy Holidays to all of our phriends,

We have new members to welcome to the club. I'm sure you have meet them by now because they have jumped in with both feet and have joined in on the zoo fun & Flip Flops.

So a big welcome to Brian and Cyndie (better know as Candie by our Pirate King) Kautz

I hope the coming year is a great one for all of you and all your dreams come true. When traveling for the holidays, be safe and have a great time. Remember all the fun we had in 2011 and all the help we did for the charities we support.

If you have any last minute shopping to do, remember 50/50 and we will be collecting for the marvelous baskets that the PIP group will put together.

So in Parrot Head fashion, party like a rock star and enjoy whatever your plans for the holiday season bring. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a great New Year to all.

Vicki  
Your Membership Director

And for those celebrating your birthday have a fabulous time and toast one for all of us....

Sandy Brenner	December 18
Karen Driessen	December 21
JIMMY BUFFETT	December 25
Kim Block	December 27
Micky Clauser	December 27
Jim Whaley	January 1



## The Social Whirl

Many of our favorite tropical bars and bands must be out having lots of holiday fun because many websites were not recently updated as of press time. Keep in mind that bars we frequent and our local trop rock bands often play Cabin Fever Parties in January, none have been posted yet, but when you need a tropical pick me up – keep an eye on the YahooGroup Emails or Club Facebook page.



### **New Year's Eve – Saturday Dec. 31, 2011 - Various places, various times**

While the club has no official plans to countdown to 2012. If there you found some cool plans share on the yahoo list or club's Facebook page what you are up to so your fellow parrot heads can join in the fun. Here are a few tropical ideas for you

**Karen Boylen  
Cruise Director**

### **Cheeseburger in Paradise – Butterfield & Finley Roads, Downers Grove.**

They will be offering up their regular menu and delicious frozen concoctions as usual. Mike "Rafone" Erickson is going to be hanging out there with Parrot Head Friends having dinner and visiting with his favorite waitress Molly.....all our invited to tag along.

### **Tiki Terrace – 1591 Lee Street in Desplaines.**

Tiki Terrace's has a Polynesian or Hawaiian style celebration planned. The night includes a Luau Style show, live island music and several tropical contests – including make your own tiki mug, beat the owner at sculpting and Tiki and most festive Island Attire. They have two packages for \$30 you get admission, the show, a tropical cocktail and champagne toast. For \$48 you get all of the above plus soft drinks and a Four Course dinner – with several options to choose from. Tickets or info at [www.thetikiterrace.com](http://www.thetikiterrace.com)

### **Cabana Charley's 6315 Main Street, Woodridge 8:30**

Charley's will be serving up their regular menu at regular prices. No cover charge and there will be drink specials and the band Cirrus Falcon will play. Cirrus Falcon is an acoustic band playing rock, retro, some Irish Favorites and a little Jimmy Buffett. This place gets crowded you will want to call head and get there early if you want a table. [www.cabanacharleys.com](http://www.cabanacharleys.com)

### **Hemingway's Port of Call – Lake Geneva Wisconsin**

Live music from New Dog Trick, fireworks and Champagne at midnight and Prime Rib Buffet. Cost is \$30 per person [www.hemingwaysportofcall.com](http://www.hemingwaysportofcall.com)

### **Chicago Express Hockey Game – Friday February 17, puck drops at 7.**

#### **Sears Center, Hoffman Estates**

It is 20 degrees and there is a new Hockey team in town. The Chicago Express. On February 17 we are going to go and cheer them on. Tickets are \$11 a piece. In addition Fridays are \$1 hot dog and \$1 BEERS. Our group will get a visit from the mascot TRAX (don't worry this one is much better trained than the Boylans' dog Trax), our name will be on the scoreboard and during intermission we will have a member of our club riding on the Zamboni.

### **BeadQuest IV-February 18, Wrigleyville**

Travel to some of Wrigleyville's most popular destination bars and compete for numbered beads at each stop. BeadQuest completely embodies the manic energy and unique experience that has become trademark of every Festa event. BeadQuest is a great way to kick the winter blues and gives Chicagoans something exciting to do! BeadQuest falls on the 3rd weekend in February and is right after Valentine's Day. Over 10,000 Beads are distributed throughout the course of the bar crawl, but participants have to earn them – it's more fun when you have to work for your reward! Cost is \$20. Go to <http://www.festaparties.com/events/beadquest-pub-crawl/> to sign up.

### **Island Beach Bash – Saturday February 25, Giovanni's in Rockford.**

Sharks on the Rock – one of our fellow PHIP clubs is hosting their annual fundraiser for Special Olympics. There is an opening act followed by TWO fabulous trop rock bands Pirates Over 40 and Johnny Russler and the Beach Bums. Tickets are \$15 in advance and available at [www.islandbeachbash.com](http://www.islandbeachbash.com) In addition Giovanni's is located next to a Comfort Inn that is offering a Northern Illinois Parrot Head Rate of \$69.99 for the night. You must reserve a room by February 15 by calling 815-398-7061. Last year all but three rooms were taken by Parrot Heads..... so it does sell out. Several of us attended last year, and I know I will be there this year – heck I am now an event sponsor thanks to winning their awesome raffle last year.



## Baking Days

Cosmic Bakers in Action at Misercordia (Photos courtesy of Bob Noonan)



Midwest Caribbean  
Association

PO Box 6313  
Villa Park, IL 60181



## 2012 Crew

President  
Billy Brehm  
billy@chicagoparrotheads.com

Secretary and First Lady  
Kristin McFadden  
Kristin@chicagoparrotheads.com

Treasurer  
Rob Fitzpatrick  
rob@chicagoparrotheads.com

Social Director  
Karen Boylan  
Karen@chicagoparrotheads.com

Charity Director  
Bob Noonan  
rnooner@aol.com

Communication Director/Editrix  
Julie Hardesty  
juliehardesty@hotmail.com

Membership Director  
Vicki Kerr  
vicki@chicagoparrotheads.com

Club Hotline  
630-729-3156