One Particular Newsletter

News from the Parrotheads of the Old Dominion

January-March 2011

www.parrothead.org

Welcome to our First Newsletter!

Hi! As you see from the headline, we are welcoming you to the first edition of "One Particular Newsletter", the newsletter for the Parrotheads of the Old Dominion (POD). The last newsletter for POD was released in 2001, so we thought it was time to put out another.

The newsletter includes write-ups about POD events, upcoming events, and other items of interest to the club. If you have any ideas for stories for the newsletter, please write them up and send them in. We would welcome your input!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and we look forward to seeing everyone at the next POD event.

Sincerely, *Alyssa, Catie and Julia*

Making our World a Cleaner Place

By Catie Harper

Staff Writer

Parrothead members gathered on March 12 for the first of the 2011 road cleanups. There are two stretches of road that have been adopted by POD, Route 15 and Signal Hill Road. The Route 15 cleanup started at 8:30 am and finished by 10 am. Ten members attended the Route 15 clean-up.

Co-Coordinator, James Sullivan stated, "There was a LOT of trash on the side of the road." He said they found many car parts, maybe even enough to build a new car! "It is very gratifying to make the Earth a cleaner place," said Sullivan.

Unfortunately, the Signal Hill Road cleanup was not able to be completed because there weren't enough clubmembers available.

This event is held four times every year. Our next road cleanup is scheduled for June 25. Everyone who attends these events puts forth a great effort!

Every Kid's A Rock Star Gala

By Alyssa Warner,

Staff Writer

On February 27, 2011 Julia, Ross, Miss Joan and Mr. James and I volunteered at a charity event called "Every Kid's a Rock Star". "Every Kid's a Rock Star" is a fundraising event that benefits the Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children.

"It is truly a unique event that provides an afternoon of fun for the entire family," said Kim Perry, Director of Special Events for the Inova Health System Foundation.

The event was held at the Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner. This year the event raised over $161,000.00. Perry said, "The event featured fabulous auction items, numerous interactive games, activities and live entertainment by the A+ Dropouts." The A+ Dropouts are a musical group made up of middle school students. They were voted one of the top 12 teen bands in America.

We all helped with event set-up. Then during the event Julia and Miss Joan and I worked at the "Immersitron", an interactive game. The kids stood in front of a camera and saw themselves on a tv screen in the game of their choice. It was a really fun game! We also assisted kids playing the Virtual Race Cars.

The kids at the event had a GREAT time, and so did we! I can't wait to help again next year!

Mardi Gras at Okra's

By Julia Smith

Staff Writer

The room is dimly lit. Green, gold and purple streamers hang from the ceiling and people in masks talk. Music plays softly in the background and the King Cake sits on the side table. It is Mardi Gras!

The Parrotheads met at Okra's on Friday, February 26 to celebrate Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday. Even though the party started in New Orleans back in the 17th century, it continues today all around the country. Mardi Gras occurs on a Tuesday from February 3 through March 9.

Parrotheads had loads of fun at the party. They each had their favorite part. "The Chicken Cordon Bleu," said Robert Harper. But the food wasn't the only highlight. "I like not finding the baby, but I get to put it [the baby] in every year so I know where it is," said event coordinator, Mark Schenden.

The King Cake was cut. Everyone watched their slices closely to be sure they didn't accidentally eat the plastic baby hidden inside. The first to find a baby was Mary Leone. She was very excited, but had not named the baby yet. The second baby was found by Leza Horton. "It was the highlight of my year!" said Horton.

Leone and Horton were both crowned Queen. They both received festive beads, a crown and a scepter. Next year, they will be responsible for providing the King Cake for the POD celebration.

In 2012, Fat Tuesday will be on February 21. We will hope to see you there to celebrate. Who knows, maybe you could find a baby in the King Cake. What ever you do, have fun... and LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!!

Helm Committee Braves the Weather to Plan for a New Year

By Joan Smith Sullivan

Guest Writer

Twelve clubmembers braved the snow to drive out to the offices of Leesburg Today for the bi-annual Helm Committee Meeting. The Committee welcomed a new face to the meeting. New member, Tamara Teele, joined the club and attended her first Helm Committee Meeting on the same day!

Many favorite events will be returning to the calendar, including Mardi Gras, Bowling, Megan's Walk for Cystic Fibrosis, Spring Fling and the Hard Times Fund Raiser for CF. In addition, there are some new events that are going to be added, including snow tubing, quarterly teams to make meals at SERVE, and a happy hour at Wilshere's house.

The best way to stay engaged with any group is to get involved. Helm Committee meetings are open to all members of the club. The Committee is always looking for new ideas for events and service projects. Every club member is encouraged to attend the meetings, and submit ideas. The next Helm Committee meeting is scheduled for 5/22 during Spring Fling… hope to see you there!

… to the following club members who have birthdays in the second quarter :

APRIL

4 Janice Wolfe-Easley
11 Micki Crouse
16 James Sullivan
21 Diane Wilshere
25 Cris Fugate
27 Jennifer Hudson

MAY

13 Robert Harper
19 Sandy Reed
21 Luke Sitosky
23 Amber Warner
24 Hunter Bell
25 Ruth Dixon

JUNE

1 Gail Bramhall
1 Raleigh Warner
8 Forrest Roof
15 Skip Freeburg
19 Lynn Czarny
20 Joan Smith
27 Deb Hummel
28 Greg Sheremeta
30 Michael Clark

The Midwinter Meltdown (from the back of the room)

By Joan Smith Sullivan

Guest Writer

I might not be the best person to write about the Midwinter Meltdown because my view of the event is always from the Auction and Raffle tables. But from the back of the room, I get to see all the things that hold the event so near and dear to my heart.

If I asked club members or attendees to give me ONE word to describe the Meltdown. They would probably say, "PARTY!" or "music" or "exhausting" … and all those things are 100% true.

The word I would give you is… community. When I'm at the event I really FEEL like we're all one…

… the local merchants who, even in these tough times choose to support our event so generously.

… our club members who give SO much for this event; auction baskets, raffle items, ideas, time, food and money.

… the artists who don't just lend their talent to the event, they also give their own merchandise for the "Artist Basket" on the auction table.

… the committee members who put SO much time, effort, blood, sweat and tears into their part of the event.

… and the event attendees who come to have fun… and to give.

These days it's so easy to feel disconnected as you go through your busy life… but when you step back and look at the event, you just get this feeling of oneness. It makes you think of simpler times when communities were small and everyone knew and took care of each other.

I love our Parrothead club because it renews my faith in people. I love the Meltdown because it renews my faith in community. And that's what I see from the back of the room…

Bonnie Peery smiles with her BFF, Amber Warner, after winning the "Paint the Town Pink" basket.

This year we had three special "PINK" baskets. The proceeds from those baskets are going to be donated to Breast Cancer Research.

We were also very happy to have a $1000.00 donation from the KeyW Corporation. They matched the bids on any basket designated with their mascot, Mango.

Bowling

By Catie Harper

Staff Writer

On March 13, the Parrotheads gathered at Bowl America in Chantilly. It was a time of cheers, laughter and just fun times. Bowling is a great way to get everybody together and "chill".

There were many people who attended ready to bowl. There were very few people who were great at bowling, but that's not what matters. What matters is that you just have fun. Several people didn't bowl, but they still had fun socializing.

It is also great when you get prizes at the end! Raleigh Warner won for high score with a 178 game. There was a battle for low score between James Sullivan, Chris Fugate and Skip Freeburg. They had a drawing to see who would win the prize, and James won. For the kids, Julia Smith won high score for her 111 game, and Michelle Huynh won for low score for her 48 game.

The BIG winner was Interfaith Relief. Club members brought non-perishable food to the event to donate to Interfaith. In all, we donated 157 pounds of food!

True to the Parrothead motto, we had a "party with a purpose". All I can say is I can't wait to go bowling again!

Project Pop-Top

By Catie Harper, Julia Smith, and Alyssa Warner, Staff Writers

Since the Parrotheads do so many service projects, we wanted to have a service project of our own. So we've been working on "Project Pop-Top". We are collecting the pop-tops off soda cans to recycle. The tabs are made of pure, high-quality aluminum and they are easy to store. Each gallon of tabs is worth $1.50, so we need LOTS of them!

When we recycle the pop-tops we will donate the money to the Ronald McDonald House. It's a great way to promote recycling and charitable giving. So please save your pop-tabs for us, and ask your friends to save them too. When you see us as events, turn in your bags to us.

Thanks so much!

Catie's Word of the Quarter:

SHINDIG

Definition: "An elaborate or large dance party or celebration."

Catie's Definition: "A HUMONGEOUS party that can only be summoned by Catie."

Used in a Sentence:

Julia: "Catie's SHINDIG was off the hook!!"

Alyssa: "TOTALLY!"

One reason NOT to go on vacation...

A Parable of Immortality

By Henry Van Dyke

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch until at last she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, "There she goes!"

Gone where? Gone from my sight – that's all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side. And just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There she goes!" there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!!"

In Loving Memory

Joan LaMay

"Everyone has angels looking over them.
There was a time when I did not believe.
Now I know the truth..."

Wil Grant

"This is my message to you.
Don't worry about a thing
'cause every little thing's gonna be alright."

Send us Your Stories!!

Have you attended a Parrothead event sponsored by another club? Have you volunteered for a special event or charity function outside of the Parrothead club? Do you have an idea for an article for the newsletter? Do you JUST have something on your mind?

Let us know what other charities and events are important to you, or what you are thinking. We'd love to include information from guest writers.

Thanks!! Alyssa, Catie and Julia

One Particular Newsletter

A quarterly publication

Staff Writers: Catie Harper
Julia Smith
Alyssa Warner

Editor: Joan Smith

Upcoming Events:

APRIL

4/10	Team 1 – Project SERVE (lunch)
4/16	Happy Hour at Wilshere's
4/21	Dough Raiser at Unos, Manassas

MAY

5/12	Dough Raiser at Unos, Manassas
5/20	Happy Hour at Cheeseburger in Paradise with Gerry Maddox - Fund Raiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
5/22	Megan's Walk for Cystic Fibrosis Spring Fling Helm Committee Meeting

JUNE

6/3	Happy Hour at Hard Times with Ted Garber & David McKenney
6/16	Dough Raiser at Unos, Manassas
6/25	Road Cleanup – Route 15 and Signal Hill

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.

Parrotheads of the Old Dominion
P.O. Box 602
Leesburg, VA 20178