



Susquehanna River Dredgings



2008 • Volume 2, Issue 3

Detailing the many adventures of the Pirates of the Susquehanna Parrot Head Club

Binghamton Chapter of
Parrot Heads in Paradise Inc.
www.phip.com

Parrot Heads in Paradise, Inc. is a Not-For-Profit Corporation, whose purpose is to assist in community and environmental concerns and provide a variety of social activities for people who are interested in the music of Jimmy Buffett and the tropical lifestyle he personifies. The organization will engage in activities that are charitable, educational and that promote the general welfare of the community.

Our local chapter's purpose is to assist in community and environmental concerns by supporting local charities in an effort to give something back to our community.

PHIP LOCAL CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHARITIES...

- In 2002: Over \$1.4 Million and 360,000 Volunteer Hours
- In 2003: Over \$1.6 Million and 365,068 Volunteer Hours
- In 2004: Over \$2.2 Million and 404,690 Volunteer Hours
- In 2005: Over \$2.7 Million and 663,543 Volunteer Hours
- In 2006: Over \$2.6 Million and 173,000 Volunteer Hours

PIRATES OF THE SUSQUEHANNA PARROT HEAD CLUB
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Ahoy all ye Pirates and Parrotheads

By: Ann Lahr (aka the Pirate Queen)

It has been a very busy early Autumn for us all. School has resumed. This has all good Pirate parents running in circles to keep up with the "Keets". As for the rest of us, POTS is keeping us pretty busy as well. Many thanks to all who stepped up to chair the many events this fall.

This year I attended my first ZooneyFest. I regret that I never had the pleasure of meeting Joe Zunic. I did however meet some of his family and friends. He was truly an amazing and inspiring person. Even though it was raining all day (Zooney tradition I hear), a good time was had by all. It was pretty soggy for cotton candy, but our pirates managed to spin it all the same. Thanks to all who braved the weather and to the Summerlees for getting all the "stuff" there and back.

Our second annual appearance on TV supporting TLAPD was a success. Check out the video on the website. We are getting more recognition in the community and that can only be a good thing for future events. Many thanks to Sherry and the gang at Delgado's -- our social that eventing was a rousing success and 50/50 raffle for Traci's Hope was outstanding!

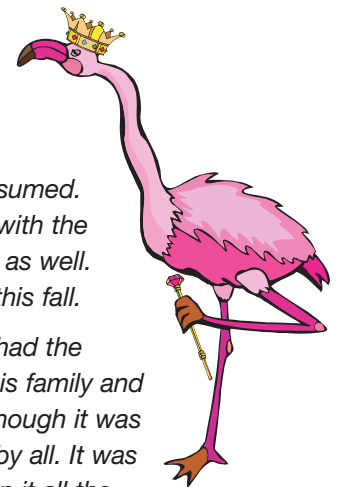
Some of us then ventured north to Walton for some Trop Rock. John Frinzi and Sunny Jim White performed a concert to benefit the restoration of the Walton Theatre. The show was set up by the Coast of the Catskills PHC. They all welcomed us warmly and gave us some great ideas for the future. John and Jim were a true joy to hang out with after the show and we look forward to seeing them again some time soon.

October was as busy as September. We had the annual Riverbank cleanup and Traci's Hope on the 4th. We still have some rabies clinics going on and we helped out again with the Magic Paintbrush Project at the Arena with the Binghamton Senators on the 28th.

As we enter 2009 we have begun our preparation for our third annual Jimmy Buffett Night with the Binghamton Senators -- January 31st! Continue to get those gift certificates in for our gift baskets and let's make this year another success!

I am truly amazed at all that we have accomplished and honored to be working along side such an outstanding group of Pirates. I thank each and every one of you for your support and dedication to "The Purposes for which we Party." God speed and see you at the next event.

PS. Just a reminder, ...all membership dues are due in January.



OUR NEXT SOCIAL is 6:00pm Jan. 23rd at Cosmo's Tiki Bar in Johnson City! See you there with flowers on!

Angels in Tropical Shirts?

"People Who Care" By: Don Winfield

"If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. The more things you do, the more you can do."

I recalled that quote October 4th, as I saw Pirates gathered at the River Clean-up and again at the Traci's Hope Barbecue. I looked around and saw everyone scurrying about and moving quickly to get their respective tasks done. Once done, they'd go on to another task, helping to keep the events gently flowing to a smooth completion.

At the Traci's Hope barbecue, 273 motorcycles arrived, bringing over \$4,000.00 in donations. Those bikes carried about 400 busy, involved, and caring people to Owego to support local victims of breast cancer. I spoke with riders I'd never met and others whom I know. All those I spoke with are busy people many of whom are also involved with other volunteer causes and projects in their communities. They hold jobs; have children, grand children, and family obligations which likely take most of their free time. Still, they manage to take time to help their neighbors.

In a way it made me feel that my small contribution was inconsequential. After all, what good was I doing by directing traffic for a couple of hours? In perspective, however, it's the efforts of the traffic directors, ticket takers, food servers, and errand runners as well as the organizers of the event, that make it successful. Each volunteer played an important part in presenting the event, and raising funds for this worthwhile cause. Breast cancer has touched or will touch nearly everyone's life. You probably know someone affected by this tragic condition. If you don't, you're going to sooner or later.

Congratulations to Mike Scalzo for winning this year's trivia contest at the Holiday Party! The torch has been passed and now we look forward to Mike's challenging questions at next year's Holiday Party!

Today, possibly more than ever, volunteering is priceless. The impact of the smallest effort or briefest amount of time each of us devotes to our community helping our fellow man is immeasurable. Collective efforts of millions of people willing to work free for the greater good make the world an enormously better place.

As Pirates of the Susquehanna we're lucky to be able to join a group of like minded individuals to help others. We are blessed with the ability to take the power of one, and multiply it by 50. You don't need to be a scientist to know immediately that those numbers can really do a lot to improve our local and global community. Parrot Heads have been called angels in tropical shirts. Whatever they call us, it simply means we are people who care.

When you get that e-mail asking for volunteers, simply do what you joined POTS to do. Get together with your phlock of Parrot Heads and "Party with a Purpose". You'll have a great time and gain the satisfaction of knowing that you've done something worthwhile and made a positive impact on mankind.

"If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. The more things you do, the more you can do."
~Lucille Ball

Our band of pirates consists of many angels... some in tropical shirts...and some not...can you spot them in this issue?!

Caption Winner: Joellyn!

October 15, 2008. Congratulations to Joellyn Lazarek for winning this week's (10/15/08) caption contest! Here was the photo:



photo by John Parra / Wire Image

And Joellyn's winning caption: **"A pirate looks at 36-24-36"**

There were a total of 393 votes, and Joellyn won overwhelmingly with 227 votes (58%).

OCTOBER 4, 2008...

Thanks from Traci's Hope

Hi Meg,

Just to let you know that we heard nothing but good about the Pirates at our fundraiser. You really made an impression (all good, of course) Kristin said that she really appreciated the way that you just jumped in and did all that you all did. Just to let you know what a success it was,,,we raised an awesome \$45,000.00.

We already have 4 new applications from people who need help. Thanks for all of your help. We really appreciated it. Hope to see you all soon (maybe at Delgado's)

Mary and Gordie Shiner

Be sure to let all of the others that they were awesome.....

Note from Meg:

Mary and Gordie are Traci's Mom and Dad, and they now run Traci's Hope. The POTS Traci's Hope Committee wants to thank all the POTS members who helped make our effort happen. THANK YOU!!!!



Riverbank Cleanup 08

Susquehanna River Bank Dredging!

Sure as me eye patch needs a scrubbing, twas a crispy cold yet sunny morn the fourth day of the month of October in the year of our Lord 2008. A seedy band of Pirates huddled for a pre pillage feast and schemin' session in the Park Tavern on the riverbank near the battleground. Thar was to be an early morn attack on the debris accumulated along the banks of the muddy Susquehanna, and, The Pirates were in full battle regalia armed with plastic bags, gloves, and a real mean "defeat debris" attitude.

As the clock struck nine, the battle began. Thar was bed springs, plastic containers, boxes, and unspeakable 'ucky stuff' (that's an exclusive Pirate term, do not use at home) to be gathered and removed from the pristine landscape.

Careful to leave undisturbed the dwellings of the less fortunate shipmates who reside in that impromptu village, The Pirates left the Susquehanna embankment a little better than they found it. One Pirate Scribe, Karen, who's name we'll not mention here, even found it in her piratical heart to return to the scene and leave morsels for the feral cats residing there.

After posing for News Channel 34 cameras (Pirates love cameras), it was off to Port of Owego for more plunderin' and pillagin' in the name of Tracy's Hope.

Another successful conquest of the evil garbage of the Susquehanna stowed in the hold of the Pirates leaky little ship, and we're ready for another battle come 2009. Arrrrrrrrrr!!!!!!!



Mark your calendars...

For the 3rd Annual Jimmy Buffett Night with the Binghamton Senators

January 31, 2009

by Lynne Schroeder

For the third year in a row, we will be raffling off "Wine & Dine" gift baskets at the Jimmy Buffett Night with the Binghamton Senators event on January 31st to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Last year we also partnered with the Magic Paintbrush Project by volunteering for their event with the Binghamton Senators, and in return they gave us several pieces of artwork created at the event to use as part of our fundraiser at the game. I am happy to tell you that this is true again this year!

So right now we are gathering donations from local restaurants to include in our gift baskets. This year we are also expanding our gift baskets to include other things as well so as not to limit ourselves. We want to exceed last year's donation to Make-A-Wish and we need YOUR help! We are calling on all members to get involved and help collect these donations. We have a running list of who is calling on which area business and if you have a couple of hours or happen to be at a favorite restaurant, please consider asking on our behalf if they would like to donate something to our cause. We have a letter which we give to each potential sponsor and if you would like a copy of this please email any board member and we can get it to you.

As a precursor to this event we donated our time to help out with the Magic Paintbrush Project's event with the Binghamton Senators. This is always a fun event. We've included some photos...



*Wait...is that our
Pirate Queen driving
the Zamboni?*



Walton Trop Rock Show

A Piratical Voyage Arrrrrrrrrrr!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(The John Frinzi "Sunny Jim" White Show)

Saturday, September 27, 2008, A tiny band of Pirates boarded their land ship and set sail for beautifully pastoral Walton, NY. The Coast of the Catskills, PHC had been plotting a Trop Rock assault on the village for many months. Tonight the siege would begin!

Shortly after 7:30 PM John Frinzi took the stage of the grandly restored, very ornate Walton Theater. John's original work is a mixture of ballads and blues, relating tales of real life in America. From his flowing story of leaving rural America for an adventure in New York City and ultimately leaving to head back to the country, to snippets of life on the road and in the islands related in John's laid back, country 'down island' style, he was excellent. After John's wonderfully entertaining set, "Sunny" Jim White captured the stage and the hearts of Walton's bon vivants (Parrot Head style) with a totally different take on the 'trop rock' genre. Upbeat, funny, and homey, Jim spun tales musically and between songs, that truly warmed the crowd and made one feel the spirit and style of life in the tropics. Again, original compositions by the artist were the order of the night, and the random Pirate was impressed at the quality of songwriting and performance "Sunny Jim" was capable of. Living for 2 decades in the Cayman Islands and Florida gives him a genuine 'down island' attitude and delivery.

For the final set both artists took the stage to perform a series of original and a couple of covered tunes. This proved to be the crowd favorite of the show. Alone they're good, together they're great. Performers of this quality need no back up musicians, and these performers have perfected their collaboration.

After the show, the POTS members were invited to join John, Jim, and the CotC members at a local bar. We sat on the deck enjoying the warm September night and making friends with the Coast of the Catskills members and the two 'Trop Rock' artists. That was an unforgettable experience for the Pirates.

The historic old Walton Theater was a big part of the show. Heavily damaged in the flood of 2006, the Coast of the Catskills, PHC's members have been instrumental in the rebuilding. Their fund raising efforts and countless hours of manual labor have done much to further the restoration. CotC President Mike Ripa, his wife (and VP) Renee', the club's Secretary Patty from Akron (don't ask), and member Chris were perfect hosts and the Parrot Heads who of put the show together. They rolled out the red carpet for POTS and gave us a guided tour of the facility. The Walton Theater is back! Well done Walton, and well done Coast of the Catskills, PHC.

Pirate's On The Prowl Plunder, Pillage, & Feast

By: Lefty Hooker

Friday, August 15, 2008.

It's Pirate Social night and the Parrot Heads set sail for a 6:00 rendezvous at The Dugout, Route 434, Apalachin, NY.

Da Pyrate and his mate arrived in due course, having run aground at a clambake that afternoon, to find a few motley pirates already on board and boozin' it up at the Tiki Bar. The sand was dry, the Margaritas wet, and the bartender in a jovial mood.

Whilst tied to Dugout's dock, the Pirates had a raucous good time. Food was consumed, drinks were drunk, and there was the usual 50/50 raffle for the '2 Dogs 2000 Miles' charity. Total take was \$71.00, won by "Annie, Queen of POTS" who accepted only \$10.00 and generously put the remaining \$61.00 into the charity fund. 3 corner hats and doo rags off to Annie!

The Tiki bar was a treat for the Pirates. Outdoors, surrounded by sand, faux palm trees, and beach items galore, it did much for the mood and spirit of the partyin' Pirates.

The Dugout gets a 7 out of 10 "Arrrr...rating" for making a real effort to have the best tiki bar we've seen in the Southern Tier, serving grog with a real pirate kick. We'd awarded more Arrrrs..... if there'd been more tables on the beach, and the food had been better prepared. Pirates complained about chicken fingers which were indeed crispy yet somehow very dry. We stayed 'til around 10:30, a new world record for the length of a POTS monthly meeting of the mindless.

Dig in Dugout! You can do 'yerselves' proud, mates. Just get all yer oars in the water and stroke with a bit more gusto!

WRONG KEY



YEP - THIS ONE GOT REAL NASTY. TEARS WERE SHED. SHE SAID THAT LIFE DOES NOT REVOLVE AROUND FISHING, BEER, SPONGE BOB SQUARE PANTS AND JIMMY BUFFETT.



by Tim Banfell

