



Message from the Isle

Midwestern Latitudes • Caribbean Attitudes

www.isleofiowa.com

May
2009
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Issue 5

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Mark's Musings

Mark Hennessey — President

"...Where it all ends I can't fathom my friends..." As my term as president ends, my journey as a Parrot Head and proud member of the Isle of Iowa family will continue on. We've shared tears with the loss of loved ones, lots of laughs at events, and even a few disagreements; but through it all we always "partied with a purpose."



There are so many people to thank that I would have to use the rest of the newsletter to list everyone, so I'll just tell all of you THANK YOU! As I've said before, any club is only as good as their members, and I think ours are the best throughout the Parrot Head nation.

I do want to thank my wife Lori and our children Ben and Maddi for all of their support, encouragement, and willingness to help out. I also want to thank the Board of Directors, because without them I would never have made it - Mike Sion, Steve Robe, Charlotte Bonar, Laurie Sexton, Don Steggall, Jim Roman, Karen Mahannah, and Sandy Young. I truly appreciate all of their time and efforts to make every meeting, every picnic, and every event a success. Lastly, I want to thank Captain Tony Tarracino and Brad Manard, who in their book, *Life Lessons of a Legend*, reminded me of how to be a better person and a better Parrot Head.

Now it is time to pass the wheel of this ship to Mike Sion and the new board, and to sit back and enjoy the rest of the journey.

.....
 Quarterly Charity
 April, May & June

.....
 Cancer Society

For more pictures
 and information
 about the club,
 visit the club website at:
www.isleofiowa.com

From the Editor

Newsletter Committee:

Editor:

Charlotte Bonar

Assistant Editors:

Linda Davenport

Sandra Kramer

Sandy Young

Photographer:

Dave Metz

Contribute to the *Message From the Isle*

Any appropriate articles such as letters, reviews, recipes, Parrot Head related stories, and/or personal experiences, are welcomed and should be e-mailed to Sandy Young, Assistant Editor, at sandy@classicphotocr.com. Parrot Head related pictures are welcomed as well, and should be e-mailed to the Editor, Charlotte Bonar, at cbonar@russellsprinting.com.

Deadline for articles in the monthly newsletter will be the 15th of each month. Any articles received after this date will be used in the following month's newsletter.

Message From the Isle is the official publication of the Isle of Iowa Parrot Head Club. *Message From the Isle* is published monthly for all members of the club and sent to many other chapters and contacts nationwide. The views expressed in the *Message From the Isle* are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Isle of Iowa Parrot Head Club, its members, or Board.

For more information on our international organization of Parrot Head clubs, please go to the Parrot Heads in Paradise, Inc. (PHiP) Web site at www.phip.com. You can read their quarterly newsletter, TradeWind Times, and be kept up-to-date on Parrot Head clubs across the country and internationally.

Life in the 1500's

Author unknown

Sometimes for dinner people would obtain pork and would feel really special when that happened. When company came over, they would bring out some bacon and hang it to show it off. It was a sign of wealth and that a man "could really bring home the bacon"! They would cut off a little to share with guests and sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with a high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food. This happened most often with tomatoes, so they stopped eating tomatoes for 400 years.

Most people didn't have the fancy pewter plates, but had trenchers - a piece of wood with the middle scooped out like a bowl. Trenchers were never washed and a lot of times worms got into the wood. After eating off wormy trenchers they would get "trench mouth."

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust."

To be continued...

Information on the Phlock

Rockin' by the River Sandy Young

Fast Facts

- **What:** One Particular Harbor
- **Where:** DC's River Walk Pub & Eatery,
411 1st St. SE, CR
- **When:** May 6, 2009
- **Time:** 5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Can you believe it's May already? We will be going to DC's RiverWalk Pub and Eatery for our final indoor get-together of this season. DC's River Walk is located at 411 1st St. SE, in Cedar Rapids. Their Happy Hour is from 3 - 7 p.m. and they have \$2.50 Domestic Bottles and \$3.50 Domestic Steins, plus a nice food selection.

One Particular Harbors are strictly social get-togethers where Parrot Heads can visit and relax in a casual atmosphere. They start around 5:30 p.m. and officially go until 10 p.m., but please come whenever you can and stay as late as you want - dependent on when you have to be to work in the morning!

June begins our One Particular Harbor picnics with locations to be announced soon.

As always, the board welcomes any ideas you may have for a location for the One Particular Harbors, whether indoors or outdoors. The picnics have to be scheduled pretty far in advance and have already been scheduled for this summer, but your suggestions are definitely welcome anytime.

Please contact any board member with your ideas. Just remember the indoor establishment has to be a place large enough to hold between 20-30 people and have food available as well as drinks, and the outdoor location should have a pavilion with electrical hookups and lights.

Spring Highway Clean-Up Doug Rassler

The Adopt-a-Highway Spring Clean-Up will take place on Sunday, May 17. Volunteers are asked to meet at the BP gas station at the Swisher/Shueyville Exit 10 on I-380 at 10 a.m.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the April monthly meeting, or you can e-mail me at dassler@netins.net to volunteer.

Volunteers are asked to wear appropriate clothing, including sturdy shoes or boots, and gloves. Orange vests and garbage bags will be provided by the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Regional Club Leaders Retreat 2009 Laurie Sexton

On April 17th and 18th, Mike Sion, Laurie Sexton, Steve Robe and Sandy Robe traveled to Downers Grove in Chicagoland for the annual Regional Club Leaders Retreat. A big thank you to the IIPHC's support in participating in this opportunistic event. The retreat was facilitated by Regional Communicators (RC's) - Dawnie Rominger and Jim Brogan, Midwest Regional Communicators; and Dan Paterek and Mary Griffiths, Great Lakes Regional Communicators.

The event was hosted by the Chicago Parrot Head Club and got under way with a "Meet and Greet" on Friday night at Cheeseburger in Paradise to get acquainted with the RC's and other club leaders. Saturday was pretty much an "in session" day with lots of discussion on PHiP topics which included, but were not limited to:

- Newsletters
- Web sites
- Badges
- Raffles
- Publicity & Community Interaction
- Socials
- Club conflict resolution
- Elections & By-Laws
- Annual & mid-year reporting
- Getting to know our neighbors (networking & idea sharing)
- Retention of existing and recruitment of new members
- The PHiP seven deadly sins
- How to classify/file our organization as non-profit

And... the PHC Golden Rule:

Respect your membership, your fellow officers and board members, your PHC neighbors ,and treat everyone as you expect to be treated.

An official set of Minutes was taken and will be distributed soon. More details on our findings will be shared with the Isle of Iowa membership in the near future.

Information on the Phlock

Mark Your Calendars! Cedar Rapids Downtown District

Note: This Calendar of Events 2009 is from the Cedar Rapids Downtown District's Web site. We thought you may be interested in helping to revitalize and rebuild the downtown district by attending some of these functions. There are rumors the Isle of Iowa Parrot Head Club will be participating in some of them.

May 29 - July 31
Uptown Friday Nights

June 6, 20, July 18, August 1, 15, September 5, October 3
Downtown Farmers' Markets with more than 160 local vendors

June 11-14
RIVERenaissance (June 13 Floodstock)

June 27, July 18, August 15
Drive-In Movie Series

October TBD
Fall Pub Crawl

December 5
Holiday DeLite Parade

For further information on these events go to
www.rebuilddowntowncr.org

JIMMY BUFFETT NIGHT @ THE BALLPARK

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009
Gerald Ptacek
Game starts @ 6:35 p.m.

- ◆ Cedar Island Band plays before the game from approximately 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Cedar Island Band plays after the game from approximately 9:00 -11:00 p.m.
- ◆ Doug Rassler will be singing the national anthem.
- ◆ The Kernels will be wearing Hawaiian jerseys during the game.
- ◆ These jerseys will be sold by silent auction during the game.

PREGAME PICNIC:

The picnic will be located in the area behind the left field concession stand. The Jimmy Buffett Night at the Ballpark includes a club ticket (\$9.00), and all you can eat and drink from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. We will then all be seated together as a group. You can come and go from the picnic area to get your food and beverage. (They give you a wrist band.) At games I have been to before, the food consists of hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, popcorn, and peanuts; possibly more. Beverages consist of soda and beer.

PRICE:

Ages 13 & above: \$20.00 each
Ages 4 - 12: \$16.00 each
Ages 3 & under: Free

You do not have to be a club member to participate, so you may invite your family and friends.

If interested contact me by e-mail: gcptacek@hotmail.com
or by phone 319-551-9006. Money must be paid ASAP.

Information on the Phlock

FloriDaze '09 Aloha Parrot Heads

One last chance to get in for one of THE greatest Trop-rock events in the country on May 22-25!

At Lucy Buffett's suggestion, we are donating all proceeds from our fundraisers to her and Jimmy's personal charity, National Stroke Association.

The musical line-up is just simply phenomenal:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| >> Will Kimbrough | >> Hugo Duarte |
| >> Fingers Taylor | >> Kelly McGuire |
| >> Amy Lee | >> The Jack Mosley Band |
| >> TC Mitchell | >> Mike Broward |
| >> The Boat Drunks | >> Capt Josh Ramsteck |
| >> BelO | >> Island Bill Haughey |
| >> JimMorris and the Big Bamboo Band | |

FloriDaze is being held in the Tampa Bay area over Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25. All the info can be found at www.FloriDaze.org and we are only a short time away from announcing which Parrot Head club will win a FREE registration OR a check for the cost of a registration written to the charity of their choice. All that takes is to have the largest PERCENTAGE of their members registered for the event. We have club members coming from 15 states representing over 30 PH clubs so far!

Here's an opportunity to come along and have some fun, to put your flip flops in Dixie, and soak up some blue skies and ultra-violet rays on the corner of walk and don't walk.

Love~n~Luck!

Susan (NanaBabe) Blankenship
Director, FloriDaze
Past-Prez, Tampa Bay Parrot Heads In Paradise

Jimmy Buffett Tribute Cruise

Fast Facts

- **What:** Adventures in ParrotDise Cruise
- **When:** November 7-14, 2009
- **From:** Port Canaveral, FL

Cruise the Eastern Caribbean aboard the Carnival Glory cruise ship out of Port Canaveral (Orlando), FL. Visit Nassau, Bahamas, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, and St. Maarten, NA.

The Coast of Carolina Parrothead Club is the official club sponsor. There's a drawing for a guitar autographed by Coral Reefer members for the first 100 people to register for the cruise.

For more information on the cruise, go to www.tributecruises.com.

Information on the Phlock

Manard paints picture of a pirate, raconteur

Note: Excerpted from the Solon Economist newspaper, Vol. CXIX, No. 10 published on March 11, 2009. Brad is a member of the Isle of Iowa Parrot Head Club and we are very proud of him.

The lessons Brad Manard learned in Key West, FL, are very different than those in the curriculum at Solon High School.

Or, maybe not so different: fill your heart with compassion; find a jewel in every soul; share a word of kindness. Surely these are valuable teachings for any age, at any stage of life.

These were the three jewels mined by the Solon Community School District Superintendent during his time spent in Key West with that city's former mayor, salty sea sailor and renowned bar owner, Captain Tony Tarracino. Manard published Tarracino's life story - dozens of his stories, really - this past fall, just days before Tarracino died on November 1, 2008, at the age of 92.

The book is titled "Life Lessons of a Legend."

If "*Life Lessons*" is a tribute to the almost mythical character that is Captain Tony, the man's funeral and memorial service were almost surreal in proportion, emotion and circumstance. A police escort led the funeral procession to the white, open-air Catholic cathedral that was filled with everyone from "the bum on the street to multi-millionaires who own beach-front resorts," said Manard. The Key West community put on an impromptu parade, with mounted police, a re-enactment group and about 1,000 people who danced down Duval Street to a live band, hoisting a life-size cutout of Captain Tony and gathering at the bar, where 21 white doves were released into the air and story after story was shared about how Tarracino had touched so many lives. Meanwhile, back in Tampa, Jimmy Buffett fans - known as Parrot Heads - sang along as Buffett played his concert finale, "Last Mango in Paris," bidding the Salt of Key West fair skies and goodbyes.

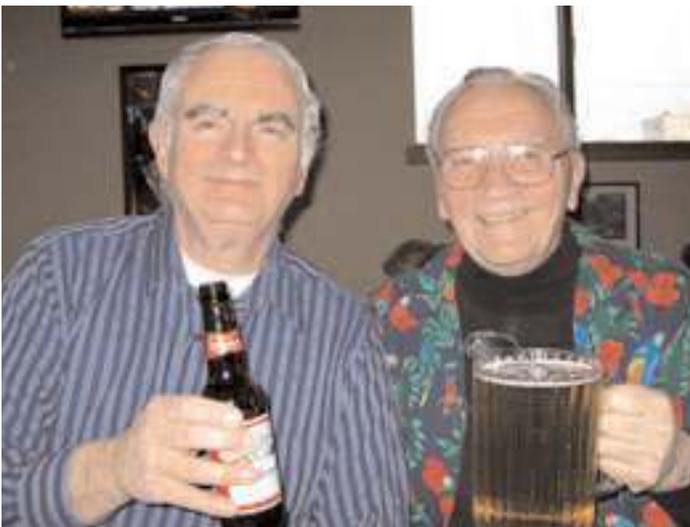
And has the life of a gambling, womanizing, crusty old sea salt changed that of a small-town educator? "My goal was to finish this book while Tony was around to enjoy it," Manard said. "I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to share it with him. The emotions that have come with this - the laughter, the fun and the tears - have been overwhelming. I find myself being much more aware of how our reactions affect others."

Condolences

Condolences

Our condolences go out to the family of Maureen Engle in the loss of her mother, Ruth M. Hocking, 87, on March 29, 2009. Please keep Maureen and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

April's one Particular Harbor



Information on the Phlock

We're Celebrating our 12th Birthday!

Sandy Young

Fast Facts

- **What:** Club birthday party
- **Where:** Izaak Walton League, 5401 42nd St. NE, CR
- **When:** May 9, 2009
- **Time:** 6:30 p.m. - Really Dark-Thirty

Happy 12th birthday, Isle of Iowa! The Isle of Iowa was officially recognized as a club in May of 1997 with 34 members. The club was founded by Susan Freundt during a get-together at Chubby's Bar (no longer in existence) on Mt. Vernon Road.

We're celebrating the birthday with a potluck and a party at the Izaak Walton League on May 9, 2009. The party will be hosted by the existing board members and will take the place of the regular monthly meeting. The board will provide Maidrites, buns, condiments and tableware. Please bring a dish to share and your own beverages.

The new board members serving from June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010 will be introduced:

President - Mike Sion
Vice President - Keith Wright
Secretary - Deanna Steggall
Treasurer - Steve Robe
Social Director - Laurie Sexton
Membership Director - Karen Mahannah
Members at Large - Kaye Moeller, Doris Olson, Jim Roman

Let's have a great turnout to celebrate our birthday and to welcome our new board!

Phlockin' Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Place
One Particular Harbor	5/6	5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.	DC's River Walk Pub & Eatery, 411 1st St. SE, CR
Club Birthday Party	5/9	6:30 p.m. - Really Dark-Thirty	Izaak Walton League, 5401 42nd St., NE, CR
Mother's Day	5/10		
Newsletter Deadline	5/14		
Memorial Day	5/25		
Transitional Board Meeting	5/26	6:30 p.m.	Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery, 1140 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE., CR
One Particular Harbor	6/3	5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.	TBA

History of the Parrot Head clubs

A HISTORY OF THE PARROT HEAD CLUBS

By our founder, Scott Nickerson

In early 1989, Scott Nickerson of Atlanta, Georgia decided he had met so many great people “tailgating” before Buffett concerts that he should do something to get those people together more than once a year. His idea was to create something different than a typical social club or fan club, by forming a group that would not only enjoy a wide variety of social activities but also provide volunteer support for local (and beyond) community and environmental concerns. After all, Jimmy had set the example with Save the Manatees Club, Friends of Florida, etc., so it seemed a good bet that this concept would appeal to most Parrot Heads.

After three months of brainstorming, and receiving blessings from Margaritaville Key West, Scott put an ad in a free, weekly entertainment newspaper in hopes of starting the first organized Parrot Head club. Scott figured it was hit or miss, but inquiries came pouring in. Within a month, a core consisting of Scott and two other Parrot Heads had organized the first group meeting.

On April 1, 1989 approximately 15 Parrot Heads met at Chastain Park (the site of many previous Buffett concerts in Atlanta), for the first official Parrot Head club meeting, then headed to a local patio bar for margaritas. More and more people began to flock to the club’s bi-weekly happy hours, and it became obvious that the Atlanta Parrot Head Club was going to be a hit. During the next year or so the club participated in several volunteer events with: the Red Cross, Children’s Wish Foundation, S.I.D.S., UNICEF, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Chattahoochee River Clean Up, and an “underwater monopoly” event that not only raised over \$70,000 for Muscular Dystrophy, but also broke the Guinness Book record! The club has been involved in the same types of activities ever since.

A short blurb about the Atlanta Parrot Head Club appeared in the Coconut Telegraph, written by Marty Lehmann (editor). Parrot Head subscribers from everywhere began to call in to ask how to start the same kind of club in their own towns. Marty was impressed with the way the Atlanta club was running, so he asked Scott to write the “Guidelines” handbook to help start and promote consistency between clubs. Three years later, Scott was asked to handle all club-related inquiries and be consultant to all newly forming clubs.

By the end of 1992 clubs had emerged in Beaumont, Dallas, New York City, Orlando, Detroit, and New Orleans. The **First Annual Parrot Head Convention**, or “Meeting of the Minds” as it is fondly referred to, was organized by Jerry Diaz of the Beaumont club to take place in New Orleans, LA, home of the newest Margaritaville Store & Cafe, in late December ‘92.

Approximately **80** people attended and all had a fantastic time. After all expenses were deducted from the collected registration fees, \$200 was left over and donated to New Orleans Artists Against Hunger & Homelessness. The clubs also “honored” Jimmy with the lifetime achievement “Silver Chalice” award, which can still be seen high over the register at the Margaritaville store.

Nearly a year later, a **second convention in New Orleans** was put together by Scott Nickerson and the Atlanta Club for late October ‘93. By this time 19 clubs existed and more were on the way. One hundred sixty-five Parrot Heads attended this convention, which was highlighted by a Parrot Head party at Margaritaville Cafe. The party was opened by a surprise video welcome from Jimmy on the big screen over the stage, followed by Scott’s Buffett Tribute band, A1A, getting the party into full swing playing everyone’s favorite Buffett songs. That year \$400 was donated to N.O.A.A.H.H. out of the registration funds. During the convention, a stronger connection was made with Margaritaville by Sunshine Smith’s (Jimmy’s business partner) presence at our meeting. Prior to that meeting, Sunshine named Scott official liaison between the clubs and Margaritaville, Inc.

Inspired by Sunshine, the national organization, **Parrot Heads in Paradise** was established in early 1994, in essence to provide further guidance and support to the ever-growing number of local clubs and to give the associated clubs national recognition.

In Nov., 1994, the **3rd Annual “Meeting of the Minds”**, was again held in New Orleans. By this time there were over 50 active clubs. At least 30 founders or representatives showed up to meet and discuss Parrot Head club achievements, and

over 325 Parrot Heads attended this convention. **Key West, the Band**, provided their renditions of Buffett's music, and originals, for the Parrot Head party at Margaritaville Cafe.

It was evident that the conventions had roughly doubled in size each year! By the **4th Annual Convention in Nov. 1995** the number of clubs had reached 81 and a record 750 Parrot Heads attended the convention.

Over 50 clubs were represented at the Founders Breakfast. Sunshine Smith, Marty Lehmann, and Judith Ranger of Margaritaville Inc. Key West, and Bob Mercer of Margaritaville Records attended the breakfast to thank the group for their ongoing community and environmental support.

This convention was organized by a committee chaired by Monte Tolar, Houston Club leader. Monte and his committee put together a "phenomenal" weekend which included the following events: an auction of various signed Buffett memorabilia and items donated by Corona Extra that brought in over \$8,000 for charity. From registration proceeds after expenses, a check was given to Sister Jane Remson at Margaritaville Cafe for New Orleans Artists Against Hunger and Homelessness for \$2,500, and a check in the same amount was sent to Save the Manatee Club. Additional funds totaling \$5,000 were distributed to a variety of charities suggested by club leaders, which brought the total charitable contribution from the 4th Annual Parrot Head Convention to \$10,000.

This was highlighted by a professionally made 20 minute video produced by Mike Douglass (Mikey D.). This video opened with the annual greeting and words of appreciation from Jimmy Buffett and continued with clips of many of the clubs involved in their respective community service and environmental projects. Captain Tony Terracino was brought in for storytelling and autograph signing at the Tropical Isle and Margaritaville Cafe by Capt. Harry Fink and Sara Sunshine of the Tampa Bay Club. Key West and A1A bands were brought in to open up for Peter Mayer, Fingers Taylor, Roger Guth (all of Jimmy's band), and friends for the annual party at Margaritaville Cafe.

Scott Nickerson was given an Award of Excellence from the clubs as well as a harmonica belt signed by Jimmy Buffett and Fingers Taylor as a gift of thanks from Judith Ranger of Margaritaville Inc. and Fingers. As an extra treat, Fingers joined A1A onstage for their rendition of his song, "Some White People Can Dance".

By the end of 1995 Parrot Heads in Paradise had grown into an association of approximately 15,000 members worldwide. It was time to evolve. Early in **1996**, Scott Nickerson formed a board of directors and Parrot Heads in Paradise filed for incorporation and non-profit status with the I.R.S. By-laws were adopted to further insure the positive direction of the association. Two more successful conventions were held in New Orleans.

Then in 1998, **The Meeting of the Minds** moved to Key West, FL for the 7th Annual Convention. The November event was attended by a record 2,000 Parrot Heads in Paradise club members. 80% of the 126 clubs were represented, and Parrot Heads from Canada even joined the phlock.

Over \$25,000 was raised for charity, in addition to a book collection for Wesley House and a toy collection for the Margaritaville sponsored Hurricane Relief Christmas for Keys Kids. And the **BEST** surprise of all was that it was convention "LUCKY 7" – **Jimmy Buffett** appeared at the Saturday night Parrot Head Street Festival and played for over an hour with Greg "Fingers" Taylor, Robert Greenidge and the Landsharks.

History of our club

10 Years Ago

Susan Freundt – Founder

May 1999

Isle of Iowa celebrated its second year as a club, growing from an initial membership of 34 to 156 members. At that time the Isle of Iowa was one of the largest in the Midwest. The birthday celebration was held at Third Street Live! and was organized by Mary Eagan, Tina Coppess, Linda Barger, Marcia Eagan and Lori Krezek.

Jimmy's latest CD "Beach House on the Moon" was released.

Dis & Daf

Contact the Club Board Contacts

President – Mark Hennessey 319-365-5840, president@isleofiowa.com
Vice President – Mike Sion 319-378-3641, vicepresident@isleofiowa.com
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membershipdirector@isleofiowa.com
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Member at Large – Jim Roman, 319-213-0585, memberatlarge2@isleofiowa.com
Member at Large – Sandy Young, 319-396-5117, memberatlarge3@isleofiowa.com

Monthly Board Meeting

The monthly board meetings are scheduled for the first **Tuesday** following the monthly membership meeting, and will start at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

These Board meetings are open to all members, not just Board members. Come and join us as we discuss the business of our Club and plan upcoming events, etc. It's a great chance to help the club and to become more involved.

For the location of this month's board meeting, please see the Phlock calendar. Visit us online at: www.isleofiowa.com

Join the Listserv!

To join the Listserv, visit our Web site at www.isleofiowa.com and enter your e-mail address on the Listserv box found on the homepage. The Listserv is limited to club business and events only and is the fastest way of getting the latest information about the club, and to keep track of events' dates or changes.

Join the Coconet!

IsleofIowaCoconet@YahooGroups.com. This is the Isle of Iowa Parrot Head Club's open communications group for non-official discussions of club members. The only limitations of this group are no profanity, no defamation of character, no indecent photos or comments, and no illegal activity. Other than that, people are free to advertise, discuss non-club events, or whatever those members wish to communicate. Please keep in mind that common sense, kindness, and courtesy shall rule.

To join the Coconet, go to <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/isleofiowacoconet/> and sign up. The existing Isle of Iowa Listserv mentioned above will still be used, but limited to club business and events only please.

If you have questions about the Listserv or Coconet, contact the board President listed under Contact the Club in this newsletter.

May Birthdays

James Gillette - 3
Keith Wright - 9
Jeff Clark - 12
Terry Barger - 13
Rich Bonar - 14
Sue Gorecki - 16
Kristin Agnew - 22
Deanna
Jackman-Steggall - 27

June Birthdays

Kaye Moeller - 2
Bill Overman - 2
Mike Sion - 4
Jerry Tichy - 19
Amy Beenblossom - 22
Jim Gross - 22
Teresa Becker - 24
Janey Wall - 24
Joe Coffey - 26
Ashley Hinson - 27

**Be sure and attend
the monthly meeting in
the month of your
birthday to get your free
birthday drink!**