



# PARROT HEADS OF THE PRAIRIE

Founded 2005

Sioux Falls, SD

Spring/Summer 2009

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## "The Pirate's" Cove

by "Pirate Rick"

Greetings Phlock,

What a time it has been. Seems like I was just whining about the snow. In January we partied at Chaser's and helped raise phunds for the troops. In February we golfed at the mall to raise phunds for Special Olympics, In March we got on a bus and "Praised the Saints" for the likes of St. Patrick. In April we passed out the candy at the Easter Egg Hunt and planted seeds in the minds of the young..."parrot heads have candy...must remember when I turn 21!" We also had a club Birthday Party, or at least I think we did. In May there was a Round to Remember and those who golfed raised significant phunds for Alzheimer's. And our Good Phriends in Sioux City cleaned up a section of the trails so we could get a trail sign with "Parrot Heads of the Prairie" on it and 3.2 ditch weed was safely secured. What great success this year has been! Plus we had our monthly Phlockings! I think we should be running the economy!

With all of that said, it was the "Make a Difference 2009" celebration that really had a significant impact on the club. This was "Our Event" and everyone chipped in and we raised over thirteen thousand dollars for two wonderful charities: Camp Gilbert, and Sammie's Day Care. It put us on the map and told everyone that we really do "Party with a Purpose!" Thanks so much; you are the salt in the margarita.

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Don't get too relaxed! More stuff is in the wind! Check your email often as sometimes we get a late notice or two, but never turn down the chance for adventure!

*Parrot Heads of The Prairie*  
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[www.parrotheadsoftheprairie.com](http://www.parrotheadsoftheprairie.com)



*"Make A Difference 2009"  
March 6, 2009  
El-Riad Shrine Auditorium*



*Thanks to you,  
we "Made a Difference" for a lot more than one!*

*By Marr Snyder*

This year our chapter took a huge step forward and produced our very first major fund-raiser. After many months of planning we held our first "Make a Difference" event on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the El-Riad Shrine Auditorium in Sioux Falls.

This year our beneficiaries were "Sammie's Day Care" and "Camp Gilbert." Both are organizations that help children with juvenile diabetes. "Sammie's Day Care" is a very special day care facility which focuses on children with special needs in regards to diabetes. These are children who generally can't get the beyond-the-ordinary care that a normal day care provides. The providers at "Sammie's" are specially trained for juvenile diabetes to help the children with their medications, nutrition and helping them with their mood swings and providing the constant monitoring that the children need to have.

Located on Lake Enemy Swim at NeSoDak Camp near Waubay, South Dakota, "Camp Gilbert" is a camp for kids age 8 to 18 with diabetes. The camp is a traditional style camp offering the classics (swimming, canoeing, crafts, and fireside singing), but

they also include a time for learning with educational sessions covering nutrition, exercise and lifestyle management. The camp's staff includes physicians, nurses, social workers, diabetes educators, dietitians, as well as traditional camp counselors. *For more information on Camp Gilbert visit their website at:*  
[www.campgilbert.com](http://www.campgilbert.com)

The event itself was held at the El-Riad Shrine in downtown Sioux Falls, which is renowned for its great events throughout the years. The Shriners were a tremendous help in guiding our club through the pitfalls of first-year events and gave the planning committee many tips in regards to preparing for the big night.

Then there were the event sponsors who really stepped up to help us by opening their hearts (and their pockets!) for this event. Another HUGE "Fins Up" to:

*Ward Enterprises and Plains Commerce Bank (Make A Difference Sponsors)*

*Omicare and Beal Distributing (Children's Champion Sponsors)*

*The Graham Organization, Robin & Dain Sisson, Greg & LeAnn Dix, Doug & Diane Wade, Scott & Ronna Sletten, and Jackie Hayes (Camp Gilbert Sponsors)*



*Compassionate Care, Silverstone Group, Tina Johnson, Brad & Elaine Zell, Marr & Jenny Snyder, Ken & Sandi Vietor, Joel & Linda Christensen, Bryan & Deb Griese, Bruce & Kris Jorgensen, Bruce & Lisa Loewenberg, Mutt & Monica Helms, Jennifer Bunkers, Faini Designs Jewelry Studio, Dacotah Bank, Able Construction, and Brad & Konni Swenson (Sammie's Day Care Sponsors)*

Tammy & Lanny Auringer, Deb Ourada, Tim & Tina Reuer, Darla Wienk, Jennifer & Dan Ruckelshausen, Danette Galbavy and Roger Scott (Honor/Memorial Sponsors)

And of course we can't forget a "Fins Up!" to the countless volunteers from the club's board of directors, the membership and the charities (and their spouses!) who put in big hours of hard work to make it all happen!

Finally, the doors were ready to open! Attendees were met by greeters who gave them leis and beads. These were adorned with tags which had the name of the child who's life they were helping. There was a raffle room with tons of prizes to take chances on, a photo booth, a "parrot head" shop, and even a Cheeseburger in Paradise stand for the hungry!

The night's entertainment opened with the duo "Vermillion" who dazzled with both their talent and generosity. (Thanks for donating your services to the cause, guys!) They were then followed up by the legendary band "A1A." A1A came all the way from Atlanta, Georgia

to help us shake off the South Dakota winter and are the only tribute band to be endorsed by Jimmy Buffett himself! Their high-energy show soon had the crowd up and on their feet and dancing to their favorite Buffett tunes both new and old! The band's front man, Jeff Pike, was blown away by both the



enthusiasm shown at the event and the turnout! He actually commented at the end of the evening that our function had a better showing than many well established events throughout the country!

Leaving the event that night, the planning committee and board of directors knew that we had a success on our hands by the number of smiles that were seen going out the door. But just how big of a success was it? It took a few days to tally up the totals, but

on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Parrot Heads of the Prairie were able to present a check to "Sammie's Day Care" and "Camp Gilbert" for \$13,000.00! This far exceeded the club's most optimistic projections!

So each and every member... event volunteer... and attendee... take just a moment and "phluff your feathers!" You "partied with a purpose," and you absolutely **MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

***Now start lining up all of your friends to attend next year's function on March 5, 2010!***

# Parrot Heads in the Community

by Lynne Hawk

## A "Round To Remember"

The Parrotheads of the Prairie and Prime magazine sponsored the 3rd annual golf outing to raise money for Alzheimer's Disease on May 29 at Willow Run Golf Course. There were 18 teams participating, including many of our very own Parrothead linksters. Judy Busch, Lolly Forseth, Lynne Hawk and Callie Helms helped to staff the hole contests raising \$550.00. At the end of the day, the event was able to raise \$5,500.00 for the local Alzheimer's Association! Another wonderful example of our phlock helping to make the world a better place!

## BackPack Program

The Parrotheads of the Prairie have been involved with the Sioux Falls Food Bank's BackPack Program for the past two years. This program provides food for the weekends for students at risk of hunger and distributes this easy-to-prepare food through the Sioux Falls schools. At a cost of \$125 per student/per year, the PHOP has sponsored several students each year by donating at the annual Shrimp Boil and September and October phlockings. This continues to be a phantastic opportunity for our phlock to support children's charities!



## "Island Time" Recipes

by Lynne Hawk

Reciepes Courtesy of  
"Margaritaville Foods"

### Jerk Shrimp Dip

(makes 2 servings)

One 8 oz. package Margaritaville Jammin Jerk Shrimp  
1 cup cream cheese, softened  
1 cup sour cream  
1/2 cup green onions, cleaned and chopped

*Cook shrimp according to package and let cool. Place all ingredients in a food processor and pulse until just blended. Serve with your favorite chip.*

### Island Lime Shrimp Veronica

(makes 2 servings)

2 cups white rice, cooked  
Two 8 oz. packages Margaritaville Island Lime Shrimp  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
1/2 cup white seedless grapes, sliced in half  
1/4 cup white wine

*Cook the shrimp according to the directions on the box. Add the heavy cream and grapes and bring to a boil. Add the white wine, season to taste with Salt and Pepper. Serve in a platter over the rice.*

### Island Lime Shrimp Gratin

(makes 2 servings)

Two 8 oz. packages Margaritaville Island Lime Shrimp  
1 cup mashed potato  
1 cup mushrooms, quartered and cooked  
1/2 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded

*Cook the shrimp according to the directions on the box. Spread the mashed potato over the bottom of a casserole dish. Sprinkle with the mushrooms and shrimp to cover evenly. Sprinkle with the mozzarella cheese. Bake in a 350( oven until the cheese is melted and bubbly.*

# Partying With A Purpose

By Marr Snyder

Many people have asked over the years, "What exactly IS a Parrot Head?" Well, yes, we ARE fans of the music of Jimmy Buffett. (Not to mention his books, his bars, his food and beverages, and his general "life philosophy!") But it goes way beyond just being a fan. You'd be hard pressed to find another "fan club" in the world, which gives back like Parrot Heads do. We like to say that we "Party With A Purpose." As a group we want to give a little something back to our community and make one little corner of the world a slightly better place... and if we can do that while slipping away from our own day-to-day cares and hardships, well... is there really anything better than that?

It may seem like we're just doing a "little something." Manning a booth for another organization... Cleaning up a small section of road.... Helping out a small group in need.... But, its not just us. Our club is a member of Parrot Heads in Paradise (PHIP) which has grown into a sprawling, global organization. And each club is doing its own "little" part. Do you have any idea what that means when you combine-it-all? In his "State of the Phlock" email, Bob Heffelfinger (PHIP Director of Membership) writes:

*"Even in the face of an economic downturn, Parrot Head Clubs collectively raised for and/or donated approximately \$3.1 million to charitable organizations in 2008. Equally significant, Parrot Heads carried on the tradition of volunteerism as 2008 saw chapters worldwide donate an estimated 175,000 man-hours to philanthropic and environmental activities. The upshot... In the period 2002 - 2008, Parrot Head Clubs have collectively contributed more than \$16.4 million and more than 2.3 million man-hours to aid our communities, our environment and our fellow man!"*

You didn't misread. In just a short stretch of time, you and your fellow ne'er-do-well, wannabe beach bum, over-forty victims of fate and modern day pirates raised over \$16 MILLION dollars! And put in 2.3 MILLION hours of community service! (And that service had nothing to do with "court orders," folks!)

And what have we been doing in our little corner of the world? Well, since the beginning of the year, we have:

Helped raise almost \$400.00 for the Sioux Falls Civil Air Patrol at their "Margaritaville" party and participated

in the Mall Walk for Juvenile Diabetes in January.

We had a contingent run an afternoon of the popular Empire Mall "Mall Golf" event, putting in 70 hours of volunteer help in February.

In April we helped raise \$800.00 for Cure Kids Cancer & the Sioux Falls Ronald McDonald House by having volunteers at the Easter Egg Hunt at the Sioux Falls Convention Center which was sponsored by Etc for Her Magazine.

And you MAY have heard about this little shin-dig that we organized in March to help children with diabetes. (And if you haven't.... Go back to Pages 2& 3!)

So are we fans of Jimmy Buffett? Heck yeah! Are we "socially conscious volunteers?" Well sure, if ya want to get all technical about just helping make your own backyard a little greener! Do we have one heck of a time while doing both? Oh, you better believe it!

So spread the word...

Pitch in...

Have a good time with us...

There's always room for one more!

## Parrot Heads Clean Up in Sioux City

by Pirate Rick

We have a group of Parrot Heads in our club who reside in Sioux City...yep... Sioux City. One of them, Kris Jorgensen, is even a board member. They love to get gas cards for Birthdays and Holidays. Well, the "Sioux City Group" as they are called, decided to clean up a section of the trails. As Parrot Heads we like taking care of the backyard. They are no exception. Some pholks from Sioux Falls drove to Sioux City to help. When it was all done, the section of the trail was clean of debris, ditch weed was harvested, and a terrific "Adopt a Trail" sign with "Parrot Heads of the Prairie" was beautifully displayed. Fins Up ...you're good pholks!



*Did they really harvest ditch weed? Only Mutt knows...*

# Jimmy Buffett In The News

By Marr Snyder

If you follow football you know Joe Robbie Stadium as the home of the Miami Dolphins. And you know that Jimmy Buffett has been moonlighting in the worlds of food (his "Margaritaville" line of frozen foods) and adult beverages (with "Margaritaville Tequila"). His latest move has been a partnership with Anheuser Busch to create a new beer called "Landshark Lager." That new beer has done so well, that when the naming rights became available to the stadium that Dolphins, Marlins, and Hurricanes all call home, Anheuser Busch jumped on it and purchased the naming rights for the 2009 NFL season. The Miami Dolphins now live in "Landshark Lager Stadium," at least until February. (The naming rights expire just before the Miami Super Bowl this coming year.)

In conjunction with the announcement of the new name, Jimmy and eight members of the Coral Reefers played a concert to 500 Parrot Heads and Dolphins fans. The lucky crowd was also the first to hear a new song, penned to the music of (you guessed it!) "Fins" dedicated to the Dolphins. Expect that to get plenty of play over the PA system on game days! Jimmy has also been offered a minority interest in the Dolphins franchise (although it has not been reported if he has accepted that or not), and the stadium will be sporting a new "Margaritaville" area as well. In a statement

released regarding the announcement, Jimmy stated,

*"What a cool thing to be doing, and especially at home in South Florida," he said. "I am honored and look forward to working (not that hard) with the Dolphin organization. I just want to thank Steve for having the idea to think a little out of the box and including us in his vision of more fun for the fans. All I can add is, let the Fin begin!"*

And this also seems to have impacted local Parrot Heads. Jimmy was slated to do a couple of concerts this fall in Vegas, but those seem to have been cancelled. The fall Vegas concerts are no longer on the schedule at Margaritaville.com, and there is some speculation that there may have been a conflict with Jimmy's tour dates and commitments *(If you had been making plans to go... Double check everything!)*

## PHOP Local Calendar

**Wednesday, June 17th**  
**Monthly Phlocking**

5:30pm  
Nuttty's South (Sioux Falls)

**Wednesday, July 15th**  
**Monthly Phlocking**

5:30pm  
Nuttty's South (Sioux Falls)

**Friday, July 17th &  
Saturday, July 18th**  
**Sioux Falls Jazz & Blues  
Festival**

[www.siouxfallsjazzfest.com](http://www.siouxfallsjazzfest.com)

**Thursday, August 6th**  
**PHOP Night at the Sioux  
Falls Canaries**

**Wednesday, August 19th**  
**Monthly Phlocking**

5:30pm  
Nuttty's South (Sioux Falls)

**Saturday, August 29th**  
**Buffett at Alpine!**

ALPINE VALLEY MUSIC  
THEATER  
East Troy, WI  
2699 Hwy D, East Troy, WI  
53120

**Wednesday, September 16th**  
**Monthly Phlocking**

5:30pm  
Nuttty's South (Sioux Falls)

**Also in September:**  
**The Annual PHOP Shrimp  
Boil!** (Watch your email and  
the online club calendar for  
details!)

## Upcoming Regional and National Events

**June 19th & 20th**

### **2nd Annual MOKSAROK**

All Day Event

Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas &  
Oklahoma Parrot Heads

Float trip, Camping, Singing,  
Dancing to Cruize Control Band -

\$5.00 cover

Diamondhead Resort,  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

1-800-722-2411

[www.diamondheadresort.us/](http://www.diamondheadresort.us/)

Contact - Bud Page (OMPH)

417- 889-1514

417-862-0765

**June 27th**

### **4th Annual Liki Tiki Luau**

Start Time: 5:00 PM

VolleyBall Beach

13105 Holmes Rd

KCMO

<http://www.volleyballbeach.com>

Entertainment - 12 Volt Band

Admission - \$10

Courtyard Kansas City South

**November 5th - November 8th**

### **18th Annual Meeting of the Minds 2009 - Floridays**

Key West, Florida

Featuring the band, "LITTLE  
FEAT!"

[www.phip.com/MOTM.asp](http://www.phip.com/MOTM.asp)

## "Say Cheese!"



*Having fun on the annual  
PHOP "Tour O'Bars" on  
Saint Patrick's Day!*



*Members of the phlock in Sioux City helping to  
brighten up the world, one trash bag at a time!*

Want to see more candid shots of the phlock in action? Check the club's new online photo album at [WWW.PHOP.JALBUM.NET](http://WWW.PHOP.JALBUM.NET).  
Want to submit pictures to the club for the album or the newsletter?  
Contact Marr Snyder at [emsvmi92@aol.com](mailto:emsvmi92@aol.com).

# Membership Musings

by "Mutt" Helms

Phellow Phlockers... we total 170! A new all time high for us...in membership count that is... not in what some of you may recall as an all time high, but that's ok, the rest of us are here to help you get your bearings again. I hope you phluff your pheathers with pride... what growth in just over 4 years...all by word of mouth... to think others have understood that inebriated spittle!

At the end of 2008 Parrot Heads in Paradise, the national organization had 237 chapters on the books...16 more than at the end of 2007. These chapters are in the United States, Canada, and Australia...and represent over 26,000 members!

How do we stack up? Well I know we have some that are very well stacked...but lets get back to the numbers. The top

ten phlocks based upon membership count as of 1/1/09 are:

- 01 - The Villages Parrot Heads (761)... Large retirement community in FL
- 02 - Quad City Parrot Head Club (692)... Moline, IL and surrounding cities
- 03 - Ocean City Parrot Head Club (607)... Ocean City, MD
- 04 - Sarasota Bay Parrot Head Club (562)
- 04 - Tampa Bay Parrot Head Club (562)
- 05 - Parrot Head Club of Eastern Massachusetts (475)... Milton, MA
- 06 - San Diego Parrot Head Club (417)
- 07 - Emerald Coast Parrot Head Club (385) ... Destin, FL
- 08 - Arizona Parrot Head Club (377)... Phoenix, AZ
- 09 - Virtual Parrot Head Club (360)... internet club
- 10 - Charlotte Harbor Parrot Head Club (345)... Placida, FL

I would say we are doing extremely well considering our birth date and size of community and being land locked... compared to those in the top 10. So I sure hope you speak with pride when sharing the news of the phlock with others. **YOU** are the reason others join. It is the spirit of your great heart, your island soul, and your fun loving attitude that draws others in.

It is your phlock...make it come alive... phlock on!

Mutt Helms  
Membership Director

## Exclusive PHOP Clothing!!

Hey, Parrotheads! Do you want to be part of the best-dressed crew? Do you want to proudly display your true colors? Now is the time to order exclusive PHOP shirts/hats, and you, too, can sport the greatest Parrothead logo ever! Better hurry-**orders taken through June 19th only.** Items will be available at the July 15th phlocking. Bring orders to June 17th phlocking at Nutty's or mail to **PO Box 87950, 57109**, by June 19th. Remember— all orders must be prepaid, and items are available to members only.

## PHOP Apparel Order Form

*Pre-paid orders only*

*All items will have embroidered PHOP logo on the front*

Available items:

- White baseball cap with velcro closure
- White short-sleeved polo shirt
- White long-sleeved polo shirt

(Shirts run large, so adjust accordingly, ladies.)

<u>Number of items</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>XX, XXX</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____ Hat	\$14	n/a	_____
_____ Polo (Short Sleeve)	\$19	\$3	_____
_____ Polo (Long Sleeve)	\$21	\$3	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Parrot Heads of the Prairie, Inc. Membership Application

www.parrotheadsoftheprairie.com

Yearly dues are as follows: Single: \$15.00 Joint Membership: \$30.00

Mail this application to: **Parrot Heads of the Prairie, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 87950**

**Sioux Falls, SD 57109**

Is this a new application or renewal? \_\_\_\_\_ Is this a joint or single membership? \_\_\_\_\_  
If renewing, do you need a new name badge? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Remember to fill out the names you want on the membership card.

Name you want on your membership card: (Example: "Mutt") \_\_\_\_\_

Real Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Buffett song: \_\_\_\_\_

How many concerts have you been to? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Check all of the following areas that you would be willing to help in:

Newsletters  Recruiting  Public Relations  Social Events  Service Projects  I just want to party

**Second Applicant for Joint Memberships:**

Name you want on your membership card: (Example: "Mutt") \_\_\_\_\_

Real Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Buffett song: \_\_\_\_\_

How many concerts have you been to? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Check all of the following areas that you would be willing to help in:

Newsletters  Recruiting  Public Relations  Social Events  Service Projects  I just want to party

Make checks payable to "**Parrot Heads of the Prairie, Inc.**"

**This contribution is not deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal income tax purposes.**

Payment Form/Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# It's Concert Season!

By Marr Snyder

Nothing gets a Parrot Head excited quite like attending a Jimmy Buffett concert. But this isn't just a matter of calling Ticket Master and circling a date on the calendar. Oh no... this is a ritual. There's the anticipation of the announcement of the Summer tour schedule. (Is the nearest show going to be on its traditional date... or has it been moved?) Then there is the ticket sale date. In some areas of the country, that can mean assembling a crack team of phone callers and internet experts and STILL not getting tickets before they are sold out!



More than one Parrot Head had "a little Captain in 'em" at Alpine '08!

Then once you've bought (begged for, stolen or sold your soul to the devil for) your tickets, it becomes time to plan your logistics. How far do we have to travel for the show? Is this a one-day deal or a whole weekend? Are we going by ourselves or traveling as a large group? Who do we need to bribe to stay sober to drive us home and keep us out of trouble in general? What about "eats?" Are we just going to "nosh" on a bucket of cold fried chicken, or are we bringing grills and cooking in the parking lot? Even more importantly.... What are we drinking? Are we just taking a cooler of Landshark Lager and Corona, or are we taking a mobile bar with a gas-powered margarita blender? (No... I'm not kidding about the blender!)

Once that's been taken care of... and you have the basis of a "plan" shaping up, then it's time to start thinking about the "extras." What is everyone planning on wearing? Sure, you COULD just wear a concert tee and shorts... but you're a REAL Parrot Head, right? That means an outfit that borders on "costume." Loud, specifically chosen

Hawaiian shirts.... Elaborate homemade hats with a Parrot Head theme... Maybe a full "Cheeseburger" costume. (Now you have to consider heat and dehydration!) And as "Pirate Rick" is always begging for... grass skirts and coconut bras are ALWAYS acceptable. (Preferably on the ladies... otherwise that can get scary fast!) That concert tee MAY be the way to go though if you have one from say... 1976!

Now, there are decorations and entertainment to think about... A true

Parrot Head rolls into the parking lot for a 7pm show around oh.... noon! So you want to make the most of it! You'll need music. If you're by yourself, the car radio will suffice as long as you have plenty of Buffett discs on hand, but a boom box may be a better call. Does someone in your group play a guitar? BRING IT! Bone up on your Jimmy tunes! (Come on, man... its only three chords!) EVERYONE in the parking lot loves a good drunken sing-along, and nobody has to have ANY talent! Now if you're in a big group... think BIG when thinking music. The bigger the system... the better. As long as you have a good selection of Buffett, your parking lot neighbors will love you! If you have too small of a system, you'll almost always wind up next to a college frat bus who don't know Buffett from Kenny Chesney! Oh, and when choosing Buffett discs, be sure to leave Songs You Know By Heart at HOME! (EVERYONE knows that one, and too many folks are already playing it!) Consider the first live album, You Had To Be



This couple demonstrates terrific use of coordinating Hawaiian shirts, parrot head visors, and leis at MAD '09! They are ready for a concert!

There or A1A or one of the newer albums even. Mix it up. Surprise some folks. There's a huge catalog to choose from and I guarantee that you'll hear "Fins" at the show!

Now, are you planning on roaming around the parking lot primarily, or be the center of attention? If it's attention that you're after, then you'll need something to draw the crowd in. You'll find everything from Parrot Head Bean Bag Toss and Parking Lot Horseshoes to "Wheel of Fortune"



*The parking lot crowd gets a tutorial in the old school art of... "The Sprinkler!" at Alpine last year.*



*The author manning the PHOP karaoke equipment at Alpine '08*

(generally R-rated!) and spinning barber chairs for "mix-in-your-mouth" margaritas! Be creative! And remember, you'll want something that sets up fast and tears down even faster!

So it's finally show time... Some folks will roll in at the last minute, but sometimes it pays off to head in early. Mike Utley (the Coral Reefer keyboardist) and Robert Greenridge (steel drums) have a band called "Club Trini" that is made up of... well, ALL the Coral Reefers. And it's not unusual, at all to see them playing a gig at the entrance to the venue an hour or two before the show! This is not to be missed! It's usually a very up-close and personal little concert with

lots of access to the band afterwards for autographs and although most of the music is instrumental, this band has some serious talent even without Jimmy! And who knows, you might even get to dance with one of Jimmy's backup singers or band members! (Yes... It DOES happen!)

Now, you're ready for the show to start. There's two ways typically to see the show and they both have their pros and cons. "Lawn Seats" are way cheaper... but you aren't going to be very close to the stage. (Although that problem is usually mitigated by "jumbotrons.") The lawn typically is one big party, with all the ups and downs that come with it. It's not unusual, for someone to fall and roll halfway down the hillside. (Alpine is STEEP, folks!) On the other hand, it's also a great way to meet new friends! The "Pavilion Seats" are much more expensive, but you are much closer to the stage and under some cover if the weather should turn lousy. The biggest drawback to Pavilion Seats is that the further down you get towards the stage, the more "suits" you run into. These are the nicely-turned-out folks who aren't necessarily Parrot Heads who have scored "corporate tickets" and have no clue what they've gotten themselves into. Keep these folks in mind... sometimes they are not going to be the "party people" you thought you'd be sitting next to. (Sometimes they are even down right "stodgy.") They won't know all the words,

and they won't know why it's a big deal if "Fingers Taylor" is with the band! On a good night you'll be able to bring these folks into your "Concert Odyssey"... and then on others, well... you just have to keep your party more to yourself.

So what do you do if you haven't been able to land tickets to the show? That calls for what I've termed, "The Karma Concert." You find some friends and go to the show without tickets! You share your cheeseburgers and 'ritas and have a grand time in the parking lot. Normally, it's not difficult to find folks with extra tickets (at face value!) before the show. Now you won't be able to watch the concert with your friends, but you will be able to make some new friends! And the worst case scenario... you hang out in the parking lot and keep partying! (And still get to listen to the concert because the show is plenty loud enough to hear in the parking lot!)

So, now that you are versed in how to prepare for the show... what are you waiting for? Start making your plans! And I hope to see you at Alpine on August 29<sup>th</sup>! Just remember, whether in the concert or the parking lot, have respect for everyone and don't let your party mess up someone else's good time!

*Fins Up!*