

Heartland LakeSharks Parrot Head Club

The LakeShark Bytes Newsletter

January 2023



**DECEMBER
WAS A
VERY VERY BUSY
LAKESHARKS
MONTH
THANK YOU ALL !**

Float
Decorating
Party

Mango Drop
New Year's Eve
Party

Sebring
Christmas
Parade

Members
Only
Party

Stationary
Golf Cart
Parade

LakeShark
Floats on
The Water

Deliveries
To RCMA

Lake Placid
Christmas
Parade

Member's
Collections for
those in need

Santa
Visits RCMA

Deliveries
ARC

Heartland
Foodbank
Delivery

The LakeShark Bytes Newsletter

*A Publication of the Heartland LakeSharks
Parrot Head Club, Lake Placid, Florida*



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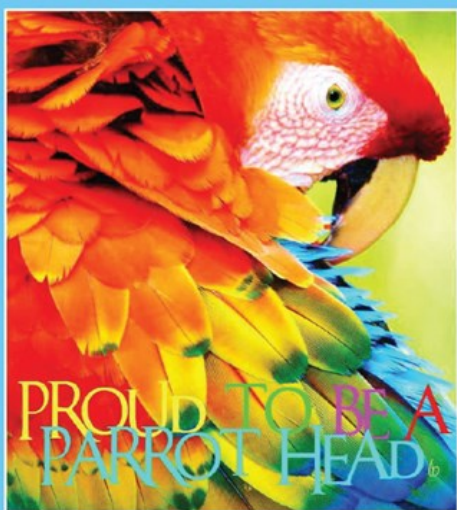
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HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

As the cover page suggests, December was very busy indeed. Thank you one and all for supporting our community through your generous donations of time, money and creativity to make this the best ever LakeSharks year.

Thumb through the following pages to see “Party with a Purpose” in detail during the month of December (and a couple of hours into the new year.)

NEW YEAR’S KICKOFF PHLOCKING

Join us on January 22 from 3 to 6pm at the Caddy Shack Bar and Grill located at 3122 Golfview Road in Sebring. Singer songwriter John McDonald returns to entertain us with his unique brand of Trop Rock music.

This year we will be accepting cash donations to sponsor one or more of the beautiful horses at the Heartland Horses Equine Activities and Learning facility in Avon Park. Your donations will be used for equine supplies, tack, food and other needed items for a designated horse or horses.



JOHN MCDONALD

John McDonald is a performing songwriter based on the Space Coast of Florida, home of the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

Previously anchored in the Mid-Atlantic, John now performs throughout the Sunshine State, Southeast, Northeast and Midwest.

During this year’s Meeting of the Minds in Key West, John took home Trop Rock Music Association Single of the Year Award for the title track of his current album Islandology.



FLOAT DECORATING PARTY

The November 30th float decorating party brought together 17 LakeSharks to decorate the new float and enjoy food, drink and merriment. Those participating in the decoration got first dibs at float riding in the parades. The basis for this year's float, a Sea Doo Switch tri-toon, was transformed into a shark powered sleigh complete with a snow making machine. Our creation went on to participate in four holiday events in Sebring and Lake Placid.



SEBRING CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 2nd brought great weather as 12 LakeShark float riders gathered at the Whole Foods parking lot to board the float for the short trip to the starting point on Sebring Parkway. Other than a slight mis-que from the driver (we accidentally cut in front of everyone to get to the front of the lineup - oops!) all went well. Dancing shark and the snow machine were big hits with the kids. We heard lots of renditions of the Baby Shark song as we passed by.



WE NEED YOU

Have a suggestion? It's your club, give us your thoughts in an email or at a Phlocking. Also, we are asking all members to help out by contributing Phlocking or other event pictures; and/or submitting articles for future newsletters and the website. Together, we can only get better! Please email your pictures, articles or any questions and/or suggestions to John at jhoward7411@gmail.com; or at a Phlocking just chase him down.

BIRD BUSINESS

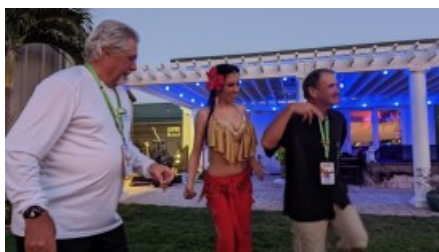
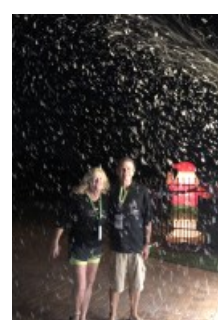
Would you like to know what's happening in "your club?" Have suggestions to share? Come join us at our next business meeting on January 10th at 11am at the Sebring Regional Airport conference room.

Please email jhoward7411@gmail.com with any questions or for more information.

DEC 4TH CHRISTMAS PARTY

This was one of the best turn outs for a LakeSharks Christmas party as 37 members attended the December members only Christmas Party. Dave Signs and Beth Travers did an excellent job of keeping us entertained with songs and stories from the road throughout the evening. Our own fire dancer Lauren performed to the music of Dave and Beth as well as her own mix. Once again, attendees got the opportunity to try a little belly dancing with the expert. Some obviously were quick studies. Others (Including the writer of this article) provided entertainment at the expense of their dignity.

During entertainment breaks, we dined on pulled pork prepared by Erv Cliff, watergate salad prepared by Marilyn Cliff and a host of other items brought by other club members. Thank you everyone!



STATIONARY GOLF CART PARADE

Impromptu events are sometimes some of most fun. This one was no exception. A small group of LakeSharks and friends of Erv and Marilyn's gathered December 9th at the Cliff residence where our float was staged for the Lake Placid Christmas parade scheduled for the next day. Why not light it up as we watched the Leisure Lakes golf cart parade pass by? So that's what we did as we enjoyed margaritas and snacks provided by the Cliffs. While we failed to get pictures of the actual parade, we did get a few pictures of the hard working LakeSharks as they prepared for the event.



LAKESHARK FLOAT ON THE WATER (PARDON THE PUN)

Talk about impromptu, this one was born of a few too many beverages at the float decorating party. Thank you Erv! So we already have the Sea Doo Switch decorated and it does float - so lets enter it in the Leisure Lakes Christmas on the Water parade. So we did - and we won first place!

Here is a picture of the happy crew as they returned to the Lake Carrie boat ramp.



MUSIC ON THE BAY 2023

Save the Dates! MOTB 2023 will be held March 1st to 5th 2023!!

Registration is now open for Music on the Bay 2023. This event will sell out, so be sure to register early.



[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

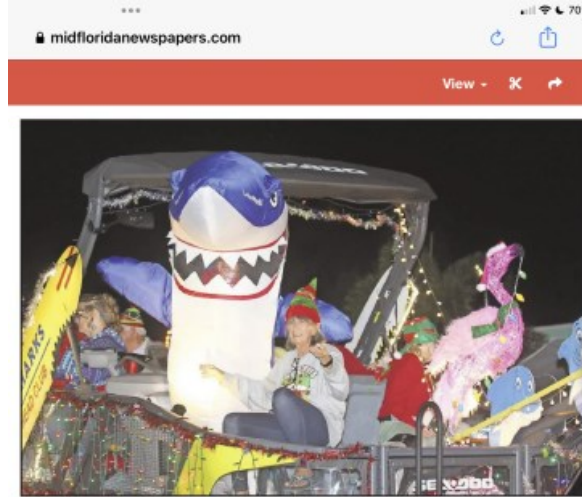
ARC HOMES DELIVERIES

LakeShark volunteers delivered five baskets to Ridge Area Arc for community homes. These baskets benefited a total of thirty residents.



LAKE PLACID CHRISTMAS PARADE

The line up began at 5:30 pm on December 10th as our riders began to arrive for the tailgate party and final setup. This time a total of 16 LakeShark riders participated. 11 on the float and 5 in the car. Again, the dancing shark and snow machine were a hit. We also made the newspaper - great job everyone.



The Heartland Parrot Head Lake Sharks had a float full of sharks. They were even pulling Santa's sleigh.



WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Fire Dancer Lauren performs with Dave Signs and Beth Travers at the December members only Christmas party. Thank you Dave, Beth and Lauren for making this a truly special event.

[\(Click here\)](#)



HEARTLAND FOODBANK DELIVERIES

1,135 pounds of food items donated by LakeShark members were delivered to Heartland Foodbank December 29th.



RCMA DELIVERIES AND SANTA VISIT

Our delivery volunteers including two of Santa's elves wheeled in multiple wagons of toys for 80 children at RCMA. Then Santa himself aka Gary Sexsmith arrived for his one on one visits. Thanks to Linda Sexsmith for the great pictures and for submitting her article to the Highlands News Sun.



A SEASON OF GIVING

First we started with getting a list of four families in need of some Christmas help from the Highlands County School student services. We try to get families that are not receiving assistance from other organizations. Our four families had eleven children and seven plus caregivers. We email out a list of the children, their ages and their wish lists and members selected who they would like to sponsor. We also made sure every child had a stocking with candy and a new electric toothbrush, toothpaste and some fun items. Each family also received a large container of assorted popcorn, a crock pot to help prepare meals and a Publix certificate for a Christmas turkey or ham family dinner with all the fixings. We are talking TONS of wrapped boxes and bags. Clothing, toys, art supplies and more. We had members researching what are the coolest shoes for 11 yr. old boys...answer: "Hey Dudes", and we had a 11 yr. old girl request a giraffe – imagine her surprise when she opened a big box with a super realistic 4 foot tall one inside! Finding the coveted Barbie Dream House also took some teamwork and another member driving to Arcadia where one was located at a store. LakeShark elves made sure every child would feel loved and cared for even though they will never meet us. The final day came for us to deliver the coveted presents to the school social workers and we did just that using three vehicles. Just as we were leaving a call came in with some emergency assistance needed for a single mother and her six children. LakeSharks stepped up and purchased a Christmas dinner for that family and some toys for the children. Birds of a feather donate together...that's Parrot Heads.



2022 Party with a Purpose Second Half Donations

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	JUL
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

**BIG VACATION MONTH SO
NO PHLOCKING IN JULY**

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	AUG "School Supplies"
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

Need: Folders, filler paper, pens, pencils, glue, crayons, Kleenex, back-packs, notebooks, any school items. Items delivered to Highlands County School Board Student Activities to be used by the entire county's school system via social workers as needed.
Collected 250 pounds of school supplies

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	SEP "Items for Pawsitive Effects in LP"
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

Need: Quality dog & cat food (Made in the USA), cat litter, leashes, collars, pet shampoo, flea/tick prevention, beds, blankets, toys, treats, pet crates.
Collected 555 pounds of pet care items along with \$400 cash donations for Pawsitive Effects.

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	OCT "Toiletries for Vet's Ditty Bags"
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

Need: Tooth paste, tooth brushes, dental floss, body soap, liquid hand soap, nail clippers, shampoo & conditioner, disposable razors, shaving cream, combs, hand sanitizer, lotion, mouthwash, body/baby powder, small packages of treats, Kleenex, pens/notepads.
Collected 325 pounds of toiletries for the Vet's Ditty Bag project

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	NOV "Toy Drive"
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

Need: Wrapped toys for child you sponsor.
\$\$ to purchase toys for RCMA children and Advent bags.
Unwrapped toys for siblings of RCMA kids over 4 yrs old.
Sponsored five families with a total of 17 children. Toys for 80 RCMA children and giant gift baskets for five Ridge Area ARC group homes benefitting 30 residents.

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	DEC "Heartland Food Bank"
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Need: Non perishable food items.
(Peanut butter & jelly always needed)
Heartland Food Bank supplies "42" food banks
Collected 1,135 lbs of much needed water, peanut butter and canned goods.

Note: = Phlocking Date