



Heartland LakeSharks Parrot Head Club

The LakeShark Bytes Newsletter

December 2024

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM OUR NEWSLETTER STAFF

Thank you Lakesharks for all your efforts and donations to make this a happy time for so many.

December events included:

- ◆ Christmas Donation Projects
- ◆ Christmas Float Decorating Party
- ◆ Sebring Christmas Parade
- ◆ Lake Placid Golf Cart Parade
- ◆ Lake Placid Christmas Parade
- ◆ Members Only Christmas Party
- ◆ RCMA Santa Visit
- ◆ ARC Basket Deliveries
- ◆ Lake Placid Boat Parade

Read on for pictures and details.

Phins up!
John and Amy



Santa's workshop picture by Linda Sexsmith with Gary Sexsmith - Santa's first mate.

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Parrot Head Club, P.O. Box 2302, Lake
Placid, Florida 33862



Co-Editors

Amy Howard
John Howard

President—John Howard
jhoward7411@gmail.com

Vice President—Amy Howard

Treasurer - Linda Breslich

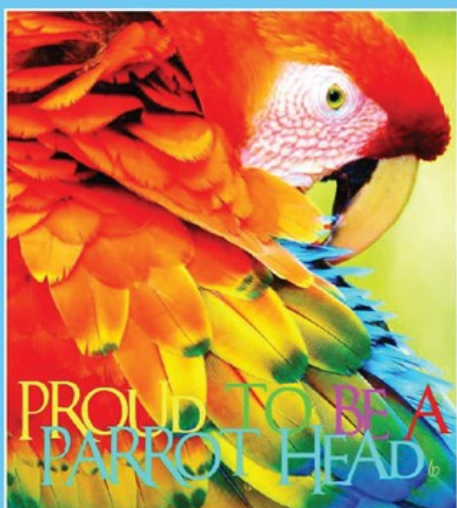
Secretary - Julie Wagner

VOR - Barbara Nickels

Directors

Marilyn Cliff
Milt Ellison
Linda Sexsmith

HeartlandLakesharksPHC.com



CHRISTMAS DONATION PROJECTS

Making Christmas bright!! That's what we do, as LakeShark Parrot Heads. The people we touch, may never see your face, or your name, but they absolutely feel your love and hope. Thank you to the many members who step up and help us "party with a purpose" to bring joy to others. Members you may never see, sponsor children by buying clothing, food, and toys for our four families (touching 20+ people). Including stockings with candy, toothbrushes, tooth paste, and deodorant. And in one case a Christmas tree! Some send funds to buy toys and books for the 80+ RCMA children, others make sure our 30 Ridge Area ARC residents are not forgotten. We are personally thankful for all those phenomenal shopping and wrapping elves. Your enthusiasm and goodwill is contagious as we "pay-it-forward." We make Jimmy Buffett proud!!

DECEMBER 3rd CHRISTMAS FLOAT DECORATING PARTY

Our decorating crew did a splendid job this year as they enjoyed Mexican spaghetti, BBQ meat balls and margaritas. Thanks everyone!



DECEMBER 6th SEBRING CHRISTMAS PARADE

Seven Lakesharks enjoyed a beautiful evening riding in the Sebring parade. Hard to believe, but this was our eighth consecutive year in the parade with some of our riders participating in all eight parades. In all of the excitement, we only managed to get a couple of pictures. Taff was kind enough to man the snow maker, and as usual, the crowd went wild! Thank you Taff.



DECEMBER 13th LAKE PLACID GOLF CART PARADE

Sponsored by the Lake Placid Leisure Lakes Home Owners, this event drew an insane amount of spirited entries. Our unofficial count was 213 golf carts and four wheelers. Our participation involved a Pre-Party with Food and drink, thanks Marilyn and Erv, followed by waving at all the people passing by from our perches at our stationary float. Taff got a little break from his snow making job as John Howard filled in for him.



DECEMBER 14th LAKE PLACID CHRISTMAS PARADE

Eight Float riders and four car riders - WOW! All seats were full as we attended the LP parade. With the exception of a minor electrical blackout (resolved by Michael Hameed), everything went according to plan. Just kidding, we had no real plan. Again, Taff did a spectacular job with the snow machine. Thanks to all!



MEXICO MELTDOWN

Karl and Deb Haselmire reported in from the Mexico Meltdown held in early December at the Margaritaville Riviera Maya. Thank you Karl. Wish we were there!

Taking the pool party to the next level!
Foam, taco boats and shots! Note to my liver: Be strong, this will all end soon.



DECEMBER 15th MEMBERS ONLY CHRISTMAS PARTY

We had a fantastic turnout of thirty-one LakeSharks who enjoyed a great evening partying to the music of our good friend John McDonald. Unfortunately, fire dancer Lauren had to cancel at the last minute due to car problems, and none of our members could be persuaded to stand in for her. Thanks to everyone for bringing an abundance of food; and a special thank you to Dave and Stacy Propst who supplied and deep fried three turkeys. Delicious !



Thank you - Chefs Dave
and Stacey Propst!



RCMA VISIT FROM SANTA AND GIFT DELIVERIES

Thank you Gary Sexsmith - excellent job with all of the children. And thank you to all the Santa elf helpers. This event is one of the highlights of the year for all the young kids and the staff at RCMA. Thank you to all of our members who donate so generously year after year to make this great event happen.



SPONSORED FAMILIES GIFT DELIVERIES AND ARC BASKET DELIVERIES

Once again, our members donated generously, providing pre-wrapped gifts for four families selected by the Highlands County School System, and gift baskets for residents at five group homes at Ridge Area ARC. Again, thank you to all our members who donated to these causes.



Adopted families gift deliveries to the Highlands School system



ARC Family Homes Basket Deliveries

LAKE PLACID LEASURE LAKES BOAT PARADE

Participation in the lake Placid Leasure Lakes boat parade was a last minute decision prompted by a little arm twisting by Kristen Smoyer who heads up the event. We had at first planned to skip this year's parade due to the height of our boat decorations vs. the low hanging branches in the Leasure Lakes main canal; however, Kristen came up with a plan where we could join to flotilla just north of the problem area. Although the captain left the spotlight at home, we survived the parade with little more than a few overhanging branches hitching a ride. Speaking of Kristen, she put on an excellent night time Flyboard show complete with pyrotechnics.



NEWS FLASH !
WE WERE JUST INFORMED THAT THE LAKESHARKS ENTRY WON FIRST PLACE !
GO LAKESHARKS !



Pictures courtesy of Linda Sexsmith

2024 PARTY WITH A PURPOSE SECOND HALF DONATIONS

July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	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			

NO PHLOCKING IN JULY

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES - HIGHLANDS COUNTY SCHOOLS
Need: Folders, filler paper, pens, pencils, glue, crayons, Kleenex, back-packs, notebooks, any school items.
Collected 205 lbs. of school supplies. Including hygiene products, tennis shoes and alarm clocks to help kids wake up on time!

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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					

ITEMS FOR PAWSITIVE EFFECTS IN LP
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 640 pounds of goodies for Pawsitive Effects. Great job everyone! Plus \$250 cash.

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		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		

HEARTLAND FOOD BANK
Need: Non perishable food items. (Peanut butter & jelly always needed). Heartland Food Bank supplies "42" food banks
Collected 1,003 pounds of food for the Heartland Foodbank.

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					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

NO PHLOCKING IN NOVEMBER

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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				

TOY DRIVE
Need: Wrapped toys for child you sponsor. \$\$ to purchase toys for RCMA children and ARC home gift boxes. Any unwrapped toys for children older than 4 will go to older RCMA siblings.
Sponsored 4 families, 80+ RCMA children and siblings, and 30 Ridge Area ARC residents.. Our gifts benefitted 150 individuals. GOOD JOB!!!!!!!!!!!!

= PHLOCKING DATE