



Tropical Topics

The **April 13, 2024** meeting took place at our home port, the Rally Point Sport Bar & Grille, Cary, and opened at 3:10PM.

Art began the meeting welcoming by everyone. He told everyone that, hopefully, weather permitting, we will hold next month's meeting outside!

He thanked everyone who participated in the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed building and mentioned that we have another coming up in May. Ginny, our club liaison with this charity, will go into more detail in her report.

He thanked Liz Losey, Laura-Leigh Rowlette and Ginny Markart for all the time and energy that went into designing and proofing the impressive MargaRALEIGHville flyer.

Art then offered a "Welcome back!" to our members who were lucky enough to get to attend the Buffett ***Keep the Party Going*** Tribute at Hollywood Bowl in LA this past Thursday, April 11 – Darren & Michelle Harris, Debbie Eberle and Paul & Deena Perillo. Debbie commented that it was the concert of a lifetime.



We collect donations for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. They accept factory-sealed non-perishable products and beverages, and non-food essentials such as hygiene items, cleaning items, or paper products. Tim Gillespie transports the items brought to our meeting to them every month.

Art again thanked our Platinum Sponsor, Dr. Jackie Carter (and Mark Griffith) who donate \$1,000 from her business, ***Six Forks Animal Hospital***, and her personal event venue, ***Pondapalooza***, where she hosts Trop Rock entertainers at a House Concert format. Please support both in the coming months.

At an earlier meeting it had been suggested that we provide special event badges to those in attendance. The subject was discussed at the board meeting and, since it's a free event, it was not cost effective, and there was no feasible way to know who should get one or how to distribute them. It was put to a vote and the decision was to table the idea for this year.

Art mentioned that the club membership numbers were up, in large part due to a direct e-mail request to former members. He left the announcement of just how much we'd grown since January for Greg & Jean. Art passed around the club's new generic business cards to EVERYONE on the Membership Committee and asked everyone to take a few to pass around to potential new members

New member, Nova Resnick, was introduced and asked to tell us a little bit about herself. Coming back to Raleigh, after being in Atlanta for a number of years, she was looking to make friends. Inheriting her mother's early Buffett albums, she is somewhat of an encyclopedia when it comes to lyrics. She later demonstrated this when the source of the name of the first band at MargaRALEIGHville came up. She knew right away that it was an early Buffett song – you'll have to ask her which one since I didn't write it down and I don't remember!

Okay, I was curious and decided to save you the trouble, so I looked it up. It comes from the song *Peanut Butter Conspiracy*, an autobiographical tale, where Jimmy Buffet reflects on his early days when he was struggling financially.

*We were hungry hard-luck heroes
Tryin' just to stay alive
We'd go down to the corner grocery
This is how we'd survive
Who's gonna steal the peanut butter
I'll get the can of sardines
Runnin' up and down the aisle of the Mini Mart
Stickin' food in our jeans*

In a show of support for fellow member, Harry Zebroski, also a local DJ who provides karaoke (*Harryoke*) at local establishments, Art suggested if anyone was looking for something to do on Sunday afternoon, Harry would be a Triple Barrel Tavern in Fuquay-Varina from 5-7pm for a Family night and again at 9 for adults.



Chloe Barnett, Treasurer, reported the following:

Current Balance as of 3/6/24 \$8,575.83

Currently available \$3,510.69

***2023 Charity Contribution yet to be cashed/distributed:

- Ronald McDonald House \$2,881.00
- Greater Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC \$124.00
- ADRC, Animal Rescue \$124.00



Ginny Markart, VP and Communications Chair, mentioned that all databases and proprietary memberships were current, however there are a few e-mails that are returned as undeliverable and she will be working with other board members who handle this information from our members to get this straightened out. If you are not receiving e-mails, please let her know so she can add you to the roster. If you don't have access to the private FB page, please request to join.

New members were asked to send a digital headshot to phofnccomm@gmail.com so their badges can be printed, and they can get "leid" at the next meeting they attend.



Those who participated in the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed building activity on March 30 were asked to raise their hands so they could be recognized for their contribution to our charity and for representing the club well. Ginny noted that participants worked (sort of) hard, had fun doing it and made a difference in the lives of 30 local children by providing a place for them to sleep comfortably. It was also pointed out that everyone followed through with the party component of our motto, ***Party with a Purpose***, by going out to lunch together afterward.

Another bed building is scheduled for May 4 in the Kohl's parking lot in Fuquay-Varina [Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina to 640 Lakestone Commons Ave, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526 - Google Maps](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Fuquay-Varina,+NC/@35.867087,-78.831111,12z). All are invited to attend; feel free to leave at whatever time your schedule warrants; any time you can give is appreciated. To save time, please fill out the waiver using this link: <https://x.gldn.io/e/ougSCP0MvHb>. Details can be found in the **Featured** section of the PHofNC Phlocking FB page.

The website, PHofNC.com, is current, and photos of club members participating in the ***Sleep in Heavenly Peace*** bed building event have been included. More will be added as we participate in photo worthy activities.



Liz Losey was thanked again for all the time and effort she put into creating the 2024 MargaRALEIGHville flyer. Samples were passed around, and it, as well as the sponsorship letter and the sponsorship form, will be sent to everyone via e-mail again this week. Please note that a revised edition of the sponsorship form was sent out on Friday; it includes *complimentary Tee-shirts* as a benefit. All are asked to include this newer version with their sponsorship requests. The image will be used on our advertising, postings, and tee-shirts.

It is not too early to make requests as many businesses include donations in their annual budgets, but those allocations gets depleted quickly, so the earlier the “ask” the better. Remember, they will ever decline, ignore you, or say YES!

With regard to baskets, we are going to try to focus on a theme for each basket. We are also striving to raise our own bar and create even nicer, higher-valued items, but also fewer baskets overall. Time, space and limiting chaos were all part of the decision. Be creative and have fun with this, but keep in mind, both when making up a basket and when bidding, that this is a fundraiser for our charities, not a chance to get a bargain on some really nice “stuff.”

In response to last month’s suggestions of other merchandise to add to our inventory, Ginny reported that preliminary results aren’t promising for now. We would be ordering in somewhat small quantities, so prices will be high. Based on suggestions from our last meeting, she had quickly priced out those items, and here’s what one online supplier offered:

- Full-sized flags (\$84)
- 3x5 flag (\$62)
- 12 x 18 Garden flags (\$72)
- Round hand fans (\$24.99 per 12 / ~\$2.00 each)
- Windbreaker (pocket logo) (\$17-45) depending on style choice

The Board will look into this again once we find a reliable vendor, hopefully local, that we can work with consistently, and hope for better pricing. Pre-orders for some items might also be offered in the future. Anyone who knows of one, was asked to share that information with a board member.

Ginny spoke on behalf of the board about the after-meeting or non-meeting day activities that will exponentially increase our fun, and bond friendships between long time and new members.

For those of you who couldn’t attend this meeting, the following is an abridged version of what she said.

Last year, this club almost folded. Those of us on the board, stepped up, (yes, albeit reluctantly and at the last minute), to ensure that that didn’t happen. Like you, the 7 of us have lives: families, jobs, health issues, and other distractions that consume our time and energy, but we carve the time to do the behind the scenes things that keep this club going. A few of you have done these jobs in the past, so you have to shake your head in agreement that it does require some commitment.

We’re not looking for a thank you or pats on the back, but we are asking for some help. That’s why I’m reaching out to you AGAIN; I’m asking you, (yes, YOU), to step up and help out and be an active part of the club’s success.

A few of you have already stepped up with ideas, and we can’t thank you enough. Here’s what’s in our near future thanks to them:

LaRue (& I don’t know if you know it, Jim Mills) are looking into coordinating a pre-season Panther football game in Charlotte. LaRue is just waiting for the fall schedule to come out to put the plans together. Travel will be by train roundtrip.

Harry Zebroski & Christine Hyden posted info about a Durham Bulls baseball game. So, I'm asking them to contact the organization about group tickets or a box seat package for the Friday night, May 10th, game, when they are giving out Margaritaville towels.

Tracy & Tim Marcks have mentioned putting together a Corn Hole Tournament. Tracy, Tim, can you look into the rules and how it would work if we did it here after a meeting?

And Deena & Paul Perillo have offered their backyard for a club pool party after our monthly meeting on July 13.

So, now it's your turn; I'm hoping some you will follow their lead and offer to coordinate something. If you don't have something in mind, I have a list of ideas - there are so many things we could do together, so all you have to do is contact a person or place and coordinate the logistics. Please...

*Between the meeting and publication of this newsletter, it was learned that the Durham Bulls are charging an additional \$27 for the towels, so, since that date is right around the corner and therefore difficult to coordinate, Harry and Kristene will look into a different available dates. We will poll everyone on FB about the best date and setup.



Jean & Greg Erlemann, Membership and Merchandise Co-Chairs, then gave their report. Greg reported that we have 95, including a new member who signed up at this meeting. That is up from the headcount of 61 in January.

Attendance and Volunteer Hours sign-in sheets were passed around. Be sure to sign the sheets and get even more credit for what you do!

Michelle Harris, Gloria Howell and her sister, Selina were presented with their badges and led by Greg. Members were again asked to mingle and make our newcomers feel welcome during the "Social" part of our get-togethers.

Club lanyards, printed with our logo, were displayed and offered for sale at \$10 each. *Bubbles Up* stickers are still available, along with a small supply of cozies, magnets, ornaments and past event t-shirts.

Our monthly 50/50 was held, and our newest member, Nova drew the winner. Greg Erlemann was the winner. He generously chose to donate his share to the upcoming walk to DeFeet Dementia. As a reminder, while some may choose to donate all or a part of their winnings back in some way, it is NEVER expected. Thank-you, Greg!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Laura-Leigh Rowlette announced our upcoming calendar of events, a list of which is further down. She reiterated the schedule for the 2024 Triangle Walk to De-Feet Dementia at Fred Fletcher Park in Raleigh, on April 21. It starts at 1pm, but since we are manning the raffle table, it is suggested that we arrive by 12:30, and allow for parking at Broughton High School (723 St Mary's St, Raleigh, NC 27605) and walking a short distance to the event.

- **1:00 pm** - Registration Opens, Music, Raffle Opens, Lawn Games
- **1:45 pm** - Warm up with Jazzercise
- **2:00 pm** - Remembrance Ceremony featuring guest speakers, Emcee, Josh Chapin from WTVD ABC 11, Performance by NCSU Grains of Time, Color Guard by Sanderson High School's ROTC
- **2:45** - Walk begins; sign-up for Walkers is below;
<https://secure.qgiv.com/.../register/form/registration> (it will take you to the general walker page, click on "Join or Start a Team." The PH Team name is PHofNC Phlocking (Tim Marcks)
- **3:15** - Raffle Closes
- **3:30** - Raffle Winners Announced
- **4:00 pm** - Event Wrap Up!

Laura-Leigh had asked Ginny to set up FB event "invitations" on our PHofNC Phlocking page so members could get an idea of who might be attending a particular event. This also give someone a place to ask questions of those who have already been, and others might benefit from the answer too. So, if you go to the *Events* tab at the top of our FB page, there are currently three (3) such invitations. Please respond, if you are going, and use the comments section to ask, answer or just give input about that particular event.

Now on to **MargaRALEIGHville**. The hours for the event are 3-9:30, with an additional hour before and a half hour after the event added for clean-up. Laura-Leigh announced that Dave McKenney and Gary Green of the Hungry hard Luck Heroes will be the opening act, playing mainly older Jimmy Buffett tunes.

We will be asking Jennifer of *Fhairy Sparkles Fairy Hair* to set up her wares at the event, as she has done in the past. (She donates a percentage of her proceeds from the day to our charities.) So, hoping her calendar is clear for that day, make plans to enhance your beautiful locks with strands of tinsel and help raise our goal thermometer too.



Laura-Leigh mentioned that she finally got a date from Ronald McDonald House to have them attend a meeting so we can present last year's funds. You'll want to be in the picture, so plan on attending the May 11 meeting!

We are still collecting pop-tabs, but, instead of working with the American Legion as we have in the past, Laura-Leigh will be bringing them directly to RMDH, since she is chairing the charity and works nearby in Durham,

Laura-Leigh then spoke about trips, events, and activities going on with other PH clubs. These are listed below and will also be posted on the PHofNC Phlocking FB page, where you can find the ones many of us attend pinned to the top section of the page in the “Featured” section.

MONTHLY PHofNC Meetings: *2nd Saturday of every month, 3:00 at Rally Point in Cary*

2024 Events and Activities (so many but certainly not all)

April

18th-21st Parrot Head Rendezvous - Panama City Beach, FL
21st Walk to De-Feet Dementia, Fred Fletcher Park, Cary, 1:00-4:00
27th Emerald Isle PHC - Feeding Frenzy Music Festival

May

4th Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build-A-Bed Event, 9 am Fuquay-Varina
May 11 Monthly meeting: **RMDH Check Presentation** (from 2023)

JUNE

1st Donnie Brewer - Lone Palm House Concert, Wake Forest
13th After meeting **Pool Party** at Paul & Deena Perillo’s, Raleigh
13th-16th A1A Beach Bash - Amelia Beach, FL
21st Eric Erdman - Wake Forest Listening Room (advanced tickets)
22nd Slice of Island Life event with Parrot Heads of the Triad @ Last Resort,

JULY

26th-28th Pirates in the Harbour, Hanover PA

AUGUST

2nd-4th PH Club of Richmond - 30th Anniversary Party, Glen Allen, VA
30th-1st Keep the Party Going, Mansfield MA

SEPTEMBER

7th **MargaRALEIGHville, PHofNC Annual Party w/ Hungry Hard Luck Heroes and Mike Nash @ Rally Point Sport Bar, Cary**
12-15th Throwback Shell Beach Party, Myrtle Beach - Coast of Carolina Club (Myrtle Beach)

OCTOBER

12th Pondapalooza - Jesse Rice
23rd-27th Meeting of the Minds, Gulf Shores AL

December

14th **PHofNC Christmas Party**

Each month Art will ask a different member to do the honor of leading the toast.
This month's Team Drink was led by Kim Fulmer.

PHofNC Team Toast:

*There are cruise ships,
And pirate ships.
And ships that sail the sea,
But the BEST ships are FRIENDships,
And may they ALWAYS be!
ARRRHH!*

Parrot Heads of North Carolina social mediums:

[\(6\) PHofNC Phlocking | Facebook](#) - private for members only
[\(6\) Facebook](#) - public for information and awareness about who we are and what we do.
[PHofNC](#) - our website

Parrot Heads in Paradise:

Instagram: [#parrotheadsinparadise](#)
Twitter: [@parrotheadsIP](#)
Phlockers Magazine: [PhlockersMagazine.com](#)

PHofNC Officer **Emails** are:

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Ginny Markart	phofnccomm@gmail.com
Chloe Barnett	phofncfinance@gmail.com
Jean & Greg Erlemann	phofncmembership@gmail.com
Laura-Leigh & Steve Rowlette	phofncevents@gmail.com

PHofNC Mailing Address:

Parrot Heads of North Carolina
c/o (a particular board member's name can be inserted here)
P.O. Box 553
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Meeting and Social Location

(2nd Saturday of each month, unless otherwise posted):
Rally Point Sports Grill
837 Bass Pro Lane
Cary, NC 27513