

Tropical Topics



The **March 9, 2024** meeting took place at the Rally Point Sport Bar & Grille, Cary, and opened at 3:05PM.

Art began the meeting by thanking everyone for showing up, especially in view of the crummy weather.

He again explained how the board meets monthly to go over outstanding items and plan for upcoming events and activities, as well as the monthly meeting. He emphasized that all board activity is transparent and all decisions are met by board consensus. All are welcome to ask questions and discuss the planning.

After he makes his announcements, each board member will give a quick report and address any questions from the floor, and most meetings will last about 20-30 minutes, depending on what events are happening and how much discussion follows from the floor.

Art announced that Kim Kirk, a representative of ADRC, the animal rescue, one of last year's charities, sent a thank you note for our support, monetary donations, and gifting of food and bedding.

He mentioned that he sent out another e-mail, the third, to personally invite former members to come back and check us out. As a result of previous e-mails on this topic, seven have decided to join again. Please welcome them when they show up.

Non-perishable food was collected and will be brought to the Food Bank for distribution. Tim Gillespie, chair of the charity, was not in attendance, so Art volunteered to get all that was collected to him.

Art again emphasized that EVERYONE in the club is on the Membership Committee. He asked that you invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to the next meeting. While there is no pressure to do so, they may just have a good time and decide to join.

TA-DA! Saving the best for last, Art's surprise announcement was that the club has received two big (huge) sponsorships for MargaRALEIGHville already. Jackie Carter has donated under the Pondapalooza banner and as well as that of her veterinary hospital, Six Forks Animal Hospital. When you get a chance, please thank her personally for her two Platinum Sponsorship donations.





Chloe Barnett, Treasurer, reported the following:

<i>Current Balance as of 3/6/24</i>	\$7988.04
<i>Outstanding checks: 2 Charities</i>	-\$248.00
<i>***2023 Charity Contribution yet to be gifted</i>	-\$2881.00
<i>Currently available</i>	\$4819.00

***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



Just a reminder that we have a **VENMO** account, available for any payment except where there is a cash return, as with a 50/50 raffle. The new link is **@PHofNC ArtMarkart** if you choose to use this route for dues, merchandise, registrations, etc.



Ginny Markart, VP and Communications Chair, reminded everyone that, come March 31, anyone who is not a paid member no longer receive access to our *PHofNC Phlocking* FB page or club e-mails. The *Parrot Heads of North Carolina* FB page, which is public and meant to introduce the club to the community at large, will be available.

If you are not receiving e-mails, please let me know so I can add you to the roster. If you don't have access to the private FB page, please request to join.

The website is current, and we will work diligently to deep it that way. Since the section was five years in arrears, the photo section was removed; some picture of us “in action” will be added to reflect our partying and our purpose, but our FB page(s) will be the main resource for photos. Feel free to include some of yours, as long as they are tasteful, If children other than your own are shown, please get permission to include them.

To our NEW members: Please e-mail YOUR headshot to me at phofnccomm@gmail.com, so you can receive your badges at the next meeting. Eventually we will offer an opportunity for long-term members to replace lost, broken or just “so old no one recognizes me from my photo anymore” badges. Each member will get one replacement after that there will be a nominal charge to cover the expense.

A Sponsorship/Gift letter will be in your electronic mailboxes and available on our PHofNC Phlocking FB page this week. There is also a separate sponsorship form that explains a few different levels of support offered. Please step outside your comfort zone and ask the business that you support to support us. Not everyone will say “yes,” but someone just might!

Remember, and remind them, that it is going to help charities that help our community.

An official request was made to PHiP for our annual Margaritaville food basket. We have been approved and should have it in plenty of time for our own MargaRALEIGHville event. They have gotten older and wiser too, and perishable food will come in the form of coupons, so no freezers and pick-up arrangements are required as in the past.



We will be helping build beds on two dates – March 30 and May 4. Both will take place in the Kohl’s parking lot, 640 Lakestone Commons Ave Fuquay Varina, NC 27526, and start at 9am. [Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina to 640 Lakestone Commons Ave, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526 - Google Maps](#) Feel free to leave at whatever time your schedule warrants; any time you can give is appreciated. If you plan to help, please fill out the waiver using this link: <https://x.gldn.io/e/ougSCP0MvHb>



Jean & Greg Erlemann, Membership and Merchandise Co-Chairs, then gave their report. Greg reported that we have 78 members, plus one more who renew at the end of the meeting.

Greg “leid” Jim and Carolyn McCarthy and Denise Doty, presenting our trademark white flower leis and their badges. Members are asked to mingle and make newcomers feel welcome during the “Social” part of our get-togethers.

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!

This month new merchandise, a Bubbles Up sticker, was offered. While a limited but popular item, there are still some available, so bring your wallets next month. (Don’t forget, we do have a VENMO account too!)

Members were asked for suggestions on what they would like to see in the way of new merchandise. Some suggestions were yard flags (3x5), garden flags, and fans. Research will be done to find out the pricing on these items. It was mentioned that if items proved to be on the high side, orders could be taken and pre-paid, leaving the club with no overstock that could deplete our treasury.

Jean did what she does well and mingled with the “crowd” selling an opportunity to go home with half of the cash collected for our charities via our monthly 50/50. At meeting’s end, the winning ticket was pulled by new member Carolyn McCarthy, and recently renewed member, Denise Doty smiled! After the excitement died down, Denise donated her half back to the charities. (While some may choose to donate all or a part of their winnings back, and it is certainly appreciated, it is NEVER expected.) Thank-you Denise!



Steve Rowlette was home dog-sitting for their daughter’s labradoodles, so Laura-Leigh Rowlette, the other half of our Events and Activities Co-Chairs, started off by going through our upcoming calendar of events, starting with the Atlanta PH Cruise that embarked that morning.

She introduced an offer from the Charlotte Hornets Basketball team to attend an April 7 at 6pm. The first 250 attendees to purchase tickets will receive a custom Charlotte Hornets Margaritaville Night shirt. Anyone interested can contact either Laura-Leigh or Ginny for more information. Laura-Leigh gave 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!

Now on to **MargaRALEIGHville**. The proposed hours for the event are 4-9pm.

Laura-Leigh is looking into adding an opening act, to warm up the crowd before Mike Nast takes the stage. Her success will depend on whether that option fits within our budget.

As mentioned earlier, we are looking for both financial and gift basket donations, and it’s not too soon to start asking. Watch for the sponsorship letter and form for more specific details; it also includes Tax ID information. The possibility of offering a limited number of vendor tables was brought up. This will be considered, with space limitations (and weather) being main factors.



Laura-Leigh mentioned that Ronald McDonald House had sent a few thank you cards for supplying a meal, collecting pop-tabs and financial donations. She is trying to coordinate a meet-up with Clay, the representative of Ronald McDonald House, to present our donation check, it was suggested that it might work better if we invited Clay to a meeting, which would also allow more members to participate in the gift-giving. She was very receptive of that idea and will contact Clay about when he might be available.


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 RMCDH.

She also asked for suggestions of meals that we might make for the residents of RMCDH. Most Friday nights were available, but McDonald's brings meals on most Saturdays, so doing our usual Cheeseburger in Paradise might be redundant. Since Covid, only eight adults are permitted to work the kitchen, with strict rules regarding packaging of it as well, so something simple and easy is preferred. All of it MUST be prepared at their facility.



Thus far, no one has stepped up to plan any fun after meeting activities. These could be as simple as a movie night, bowling, axe-throwing, or indoor golf, and it might require contacting the facility, polling our membership and maybe making reservations – that's it! A Durham Bulls game was suggested but that person did not offer to organize it. How about it? ...Someone step up and get this member-suggested outing started!

Laura-Leigh then spoke about trips, events, and activities going on with other PH clubs. These are also posted on the PHofNC Phlocking FB page and will be listed below. These events and activities are posted on our FB page, and, for desktop and android users, you can find them pinned to the top section of the page. I-phone users need to select the "Featured" tab at the top of the page.



Some of the particular items that Laura-Leigh ae below. More details can be found by checking out our FB pages, checking with Laura-Leigh and Steve, or googling the event.

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)

March

30 Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build-A-Bed Even, 9 am Fuquay-Varina

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

JUNE

1st Donnie Brewer - Lone Palm House Concert, Wake Forest

13th-16th A1A Beach Bash - Amelia Beach, FL

21st Eric Erdman - Wake Forest Listening Room (advanced tickets)

22nd Slice of Island Life event with Parrotheads of the Triad
@ Last Resort, Deacon Blvd, Winston-Salem, NC

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/ Mike Nash!!

12-15th Throwback Shell Beach Party, Myrtle Beach - Coast of Carolina Club


OCTOBER

12th Pondapalooza - Jesse Rice

23rd-27th Meeting of the Minds, Gulf Shores AL

December

14th PHofNC Christmas Party



Each month Art will solicit ask s different member to do the honor of leading the toast.
This month's Team Drink was led by long-time member Jeff Losey.

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:

Art Markart	phofncpres@gmail.com
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