



Tropical Topics

The **May 11, 2024** meeting took place on the outdoor patio of Rally Point Sport Bar & Grille, Cary, and opened at 3:00PM. Art began by wishing all the special ladies a **Happy Mother's Day**

Our 2024 Charities



Laura-Leigh was asked to come forward to introduce a representative from Ronald McDonald House, Jasmin, who gave a brief overview of ways we could continue to support Ronald McDonald House in the coming months. Laura-Leigh will look into those opportunities so the Board can decide which are viable for us.

At that point, all 2023 and 2024 Board Members, along with all members in attendance, posed for a photo of the check presentation in the amount of \$3000, collected during our 2023 activities on their behalf. Cindy Morgan, visiting from her PHofNC South (Punta Gorda, Florida) home, helped out by taking a picture of the group.

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.



Art then thanked everyone who participated in the **DeFeet Dementia Walk**, from selling tickets and manning the raffle table, and/or soliciting financial support from family and friends through their participation as a walker. Combined efforts helped raise \$92,000 for the cause. All participants were greeted with a resounding applause from our members.



Tim Gillespie delivered 250 pounds of food to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC last month. This an ongoing project with items such as factory-sealed non-perishable products and beverages, and non-food essentials such as hygiene items, cleaning items, or paper products, donated by you every month. Keep up the good work. Fulfilling our purpose also makes a huge difference in the lives of so many.



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

More volunteer hours were earned when 12 members plus a ‘keet showed up in support of the **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** bed building endeavor on May 4. Various stations that included cutting, drilling, sanding, staining and bundling wood were set up to prepare 25 beds for future delivery to children who otherwise sleep under subpar conditions – on couches, cots, or even the floor. Art again asked everyone to show our appreciation with heartfelt applause. There will be other bed building opportunities later in the year, if anyone would like to participate in the future.



MargaRALEIGHville 2024



Addressing our MargaRALEIGHville sponsorship efforts, Art thanked all who have asked and received commitments. So far, all donors have been members, but many requests to employers and businesses frequented by you, our members, are in the works.

We have two Platinum Margarita Benefactor donations [Dr. Jackie Carter (and Mark Griffith) through her business *Six Forks Animal Hospital*, and her personal event venue, *Pondapalooza*], with another in the works, two Golden Coconut Patrons {Art & Ginny Markart and Cheech Barona and Bonnie Fuller}, and two Cheeseburger Advocates [Chloe Barnett and Tim & Beth Cross]. Please keep in mind that our objective isn’t simply to pay for the bands and cover affiliated event expenses, but, as our primary fundraiser each year, our goal is to make a difference in the lives of those who really need it. The charities we selected at our January planning meeting, Ronald McDonald House, the Food Bank and Sleep in Heavenly Peace, equally share the net proceeds.

PLEASE, help us advertise by post or hand out flyers, and ask for sponsorships. The worst that can happen is they say, “No,” but they may just say, “YES!”

It was suggested by a member that we charge for admission for MargaRALEIGHville, and after a thorough discussion, the board decided this was not feasible give many of our logistical details. The board then readdressed an earlier idea to provide special badges for our lanyards to signify participation in the event. This time details were fine-tuned, and a “yes” vote prevailed. Laminated badges will be distributed the day of the event as each member checks per their volunteer assignment. One side of the badge will include the flyer for the event and the other will list our sponsors and the word “VOLUNTEER” on it. This will help identify those who might either have answers to questions about the event or the club, or, at least, who can direct the inquiry to a board member who can help. Sponsors will also receive a badge with a different color flyer on one side and the word “SPONSOR” on the other. If you do both, you will receive both.

If anyone wants to donate a themed basket for the raffle, it will be much appreciated but not necessary. If you want to pass it along ahead of time, you can bring it to a meeting, or contact Ginny Markart, phofnccomm@gmail.com, to arrange drop-off, as Laura-Leigh is unable to store them at this time.

If you have a contact person at a T-shirt and/or banner vendor, please share that information with a board member. We will be needing them for MargaRALEIGHville, and the sooner we can contact them, the better.

Membership & Merchandise

With Jean and Greg Erlemann in the mountains for a family wedding, Art excitedly reported our membership numbers – up from 61 in January to 97 at the start of the meeting! I'm happy to add that, by the close of our social, we had 101 members! Continue to invite friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers – hand out our business cards or membership brochures; these are available at every meeting. Getting the word out that we even exist is half our battle.



A not-so-new member, Darren Harris, was officially “Leid” by Chloe.

Art asked all new members to follow through with a few housekeeping tasks to ensure they are in the loop on all comings and goings of the club:

- New members are asked to send a headshot to phofnccomm@gmail.com so that you too can get “Leid” and receive your credentials at the next meeting.
- Watch for the e-mailed Tropical Times, this combination newsletter/meeting minutes. If you are not receiving it, either we entered your email address incorrectly or you wrote it in your native tongue, a dialect we are unfamiliar with, and need you to send it to phofnccomm@gmail.com in a universally accepted (typed) font.
- The club has two FaceBook pages, one is *Parrot Heads of North Carolina*, a public page that any and all can see, a sort of billboard for what we do, used as an enticement to join us. The other is *PHofNC Phlocking*, a private page that only members can access. This allows members to ask questions, share information or simply chat about any activities or events of interest to other members. This FB page requires either a request from you to be accepted or an invitation from me to join (this requires that you and I be friends on FB first. If you get a request from me, Ginny Markart or phofnccomm, accept me as a friend so I can proceed with an invite; you can always drop me later if you prefer a streamlined address book.

A limited amount of merchandise was available this month. Club lanyards, printed with our logo, are available for \$10 each, and *Bubbles Up* stickers are \$5 apiece.

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!

Treasurer's Report



Chloe Barnett, Treasurer, reported the following:

<i>Current Balance as of 3/6/24</i>	\$6,996.16
<i>Sponsorships</i>	\$3,100.00
<i>Cash on Hand</i>	\$3,410.96

Communications



Ginny Markart, VP and Communications Chair, asked that anyone who takes photos at our gatherings to please share at least some of them for publication on the website, Face Book and in the newsletter, to help promote what we do, or, for some occasions, just so everyone else can see how much fun they had. {If you are in the witness protection program, discretely let me know, and I will be sure to blur you out of any photos you may appear in.}

The PR opportunity that Tim & Katie were trying to set up with a local radio station has fallen through. The announcers they were working with said they were told they already had too many commitments for this year.

In conjunction with Art's discussion on receiving your badges, e-mails and FB posts, please follow through, as this is the best way to keep you engaged in club activities, especially if life gets in your way and you have to miss a meeting or two along the way.

Monthly Socials

In response to our request for help in planning some fun activities to do either after our monthly meetings or even another time during the month, Tim and Tracy Marcks stepped up to the plate and organized a corn hole Tournament (she even had the rules printed up!) Tracy contacted management of Rally Point to reserve the outdoor patio this month. She also approached the owner, Jennifer, for two gift cards to present to the winners. The Club added swag (2 lanyards and 2 *Bubbles up* stickers) to enhance the reward. Each player donated \$10 to our charities, and a total of \$180 went into the bank, earmarked for end of the year donations. Winners Michelle and Darren Harris walked away with the prizes and bragging rights. Congratulations!!!

Ginny again asked for help in organizing more monthly social events. ***PLEASE, this is your club, and many hands make light work.*** Harry Zebroski and Kristene Hyden are looking into a night at a Durham Bulls game this season, and LaRue and Jim Mills will be getting details for a trip to Charlotte for a Panther's Pre-Season game, with travel to the stadium by Amtrak.

Anyone up for looking into the feasibility of a group bowling outing, miniature golf, indoor golf, axe throwing, a Raleigh bar crawl, or possibly a picnic, maybe in September when the days are starting to cool again. (We used to have a picnic every year at Falls Lake but locals have warned us about contaminated water and strongly emphasized that we should look elsewhere to do something like this.)

50:50

Our monthly 50/50 was held, with Tim & Beth Cross winning half of the pot. Many encouraged Tim to stop on his way home a buy a lottery ticket, since he also won the sizeable 50/50 while at the Emerald Isle PHC Feeding Frenzy the weekend before.

UPCOMING *Events and Activities*

Laura-Leigh Rowlette went over our very busy events calendar, with all listed below. Per Laura-Leigh's request that Ginny set up FB event "invitations" on our **PHofNC Phlocking** page, you can gauge who among us is interested in a particular event. This also give you a place to ask questions of those who have already been. We are firm believers that there is no such thing as a stupid question. So, if you go to the **Events** tab at the top of our FB page, you will find our activities as well as those events that PHofNC members tend to have interest in attending. Please respond, if you are going, and use the comments section to ask, answer or just give input about that particular event.

Since I am reminded that many do not use FB as often as me, or may not be as comfortable using it as some others may be. The following is a brief synopsis of the reasoning behind where to find things on our private page. If you're even more knowledgeable than me, I apologize, but I also appreciate your suggestions. (lol)

PHofNC Phlocking FaceBook Page - *how to fine important posts*

- Locate the Feature section – it's toward the top and provides a sideways scroll of important information or those events, which are also regular posts, so you can put your fingers on them faster. What might appear there:
 - Meeting reminders
 - Our VENMO QR Code
 - Major events of interest to our members
 - MargaRALEIGHville
 - Eric Erdman show
 - Mac McAnally show
 - Richmond Birthday event
 - Throwback Shell in Myrtle Beach
 - MOTM – Meeting of the Minds, the annual Parrot Head Convention, now held in Gulf Shores, Alabama
- Feel free to comment, question, etc. about the event in the comments section – pre-party get-togethers, transportation questions, etc.
- You can also type in a key word in the **Magnifying Glass** to find something, especially if it's not "pinned" (as in pushpin) in the feature section.

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, unless otherwise noted.

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, at Laura-Leigh and Steve Rowlette's home,
Wake Forrest
12pm – optional pool party
1:30ish - pot luck meal.
2-3pm - "Meet & Greet"
3pm – Entertainment (AND you WILL be entertained!)
Tickets are \$20 p/p, with all proceeds going to the entertainer
This event is NOT limited to Parrot Heads, so bring a friend and enjoy a great afternoon.
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

13th After meeting **Pot Luck Pool Party** at Paul, Deena and Dog(s) Perillo's home, Raleigh
(Let Deena know what side you plan to bring, so there are a limited number of duplicates.)
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 PH Club (Myrtle Beach)

OCTOBER

12th Jesse Rice @ Pondapalooza (Home of Jackie Carter & Mark Griffith's home, Apex)
23rd-27th Meeting of the Minds, Gulf Shores, AL

November 3 Mac McAnally, The Carolina Theatre of Durham

December

14th **PHofNC Christmas Party- details TBA**

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

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:

[PHofNC Phlocking](#) FB - private for members only

[Parrot Heads of North Carolina](#) FB - public for information and awareness about who we are and what we do.

[PHofNC.com](#) - our website

Parrot Heads in Paradise:

Web site: <http://phip.com>

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