



Q2 2026

Parrot Head Club of Eastern MA | Vol. 50

Q2 2026 ~ The 3/4 Times

SUMMER IS HERE! HAPPY 250TH YEARS OF CELEBRATIONS TO OUR PHCOEM MEMBERS!

We have a Very Special Write Up By our VP Katherine on The Pirates Museum from Cape Cod so Please enjoy reading.

Your BOD is here to keep this Party going and give you all updates on Events with Social Fun planned. We started with The SOMA Dance Celebrating with many Members & Athletes a great turn out for all.

Wishing You All a Happy, Safe 4th of July with Your Families & Friends lots of Festivities.

We will be in doing The Pan-Mass August 1st at The Wrentham stop for Support and Cheers for the bikers and an after Breakfast at Mac's home. Towards the later part of Summer this will bring us two Coral Reefer Concerts in Boston and Gilford NH bringing everyone still long-lasting memories of The Late Jimmy Buffett. As PARROTHEADS the times we share doing what we do is the times we cherish forever as one big family with Phriends from all over.

Please Join PHCOEM for our Annual Membership Pool Party August 15th at Sunny & Mr. Richard's home for an awesome time for all. We have music by Tiki Jim and gifts for our Members it will be loads of FUN like every year.

September will bring us a beach cleanup in Plymouth to end the Summer. See our Website, FB as we will keep you updated on all future Information for The Clubs Events.

We will see you all at one of The Future TT's or Events and Your BOD Mac, Katherine, Babs, Sunny & Liz will be working on more Charity & Social Events for PHCOEM keeping this club Moving On! Thank you for all you do and to keep this Clubs Party going on as Friends & Family like we do every Year.

ALOHA FINNS UP TO YOU ALL!

**Lizzy L12- Liz McCarthy
Secretary of PHCOEM**





From the Office of the Prez



Good Day Phlock,

Happy 250th celebration to our country. We hope you will get out and enjoy the summer celebrations going on all over. Soccer has been the talk of the town lately and soon the tall ships will be parading around the harbor.

There are many concerts with some of our favorite artists coming to town (Mac in Rhode Island and the Coral Reefers in town) and hopefully the weather will be cooperating. The club will be having a number of socials this summer so try to join in the fun. We will be visiting Hyannis town common to see the Cape Cod Ukulele Club play on Monday nights. In August we have a social after volunteering at the Pan Mass Challenge water stop. The club Membership pool party will be at the Feldeisen compound in August on Saturday the 15th. Please come on out bring your bathing suit and join in on all the shenanigans.

We just celebrated another National Parrothead day! Somebody asked me the other day. Why? I gave them a lot of reasons. Many of the people in this club, and clubs all over the world, are some of the kindest, generous and most giving people you will ever meet. For example all the Special Olympic events we are a part of and have been for 25 plus years, and some of our members even volunteered at the National Special Olympic Summer Games in Minnesota. We cheer on riders at the Pan Mass Challenge, we clean up beaches and along the canal for Coast Sweep, we support Operation Troop Support and the Northeast Animal Shelter! There are so many reasons to celebrate being a Parrothead. Most importantly all the wonderful relationships, friendships and family we have built and memories we have shared along the way. Some of our dearest friends and chosen family we have made acquaintance with on a parrot head adventure somewhere.

Yes, it was Jimmy who started this all those years ago with the Party With A Purpose theme and we should not change our way of living just because he is no longer with us. The kindness, generosity, positivity, the smiles, the adventurous spirit we need to survive on this big round ball is important now more than ever. We need a "Change in Latitude" once in a while and we definitely need some "wrinkles only go where the smiles have been" in order to get by our everyday stresses. So hopefully you are feeling as proud as I am to be a Parrothead. I thank Jimmy all the time because if it wasn't for him and this club I wouldn't know all of you. Most of whom are now Phamily. Sentimentality is not usually one of my strong points. But in this case let it be known to all the members in this club for 34 years that you have had plenty to be proud, grateful and thankful for but most importantly each other. Thank you

There are many events this summer so please check our fb pages for pop up events like the July 26th bike event! The Coral Reefer concerts will be August the 8th and 9th, as is the Club Membership pool party on Saturday Aug 15th. So there's lots of fun to enjoy!

Hope to see you soon

Make someone smile today.

Mac



From the Office of the Vice-Prez – Kitty Jones

THE TREASURE BEYOND TREASURE

An Afternoon with Barry Clifford

The discoverer of the Whydah reflects on shipwrecks, dreams, pirate democracy, perseverance, and why the greatest treasure may be the stories we tell.

By Katherine Burton Jones

Enjoy the following article.

Photographs courtesy of Barry Clifford and Katherine Burton Jones



Barry Clifford with his son, Brandon, and the Whydah Bell, Photograph courtesy of Barry Clifford

The bell sits quietly in the museum, its bronze surface carrying more than three centuries of history. Nearby, seemingly ordinary concretions rest in tanks of seawater, concealing artifacts that may not reveal their secrets for years. It is a fitting setting for Barry Clifford, a man who has spent much of his life searching for what lies hidden beneath the surface.

As some of you know from previous newsletter contributions, I began my career as an archaeologist in Florida. When I moved to New England in 1985, I became fascinated by the story of the *Whydah*, the pirate ship of Samuel "Black Sam" Bellamy that sank off Cape Cod in 1717.

Not long afterward, newspaper stories began appearing around a young treasure hunter named Barry Clifford and his relentless search for the wreck. The coverage ranged from romantic tales of pirates and buried treasure to serious discussions of maritime history and archaeology. It also chronicled the determination of a modern-day explorer pursuing what many considered an impossible dream.

The press was not always kind. Critics questioned his methods, his conclusions, and sometimes his motives. Undaunted, Clifford continued his work. In 1984, after years of searching, he discovered the *Whydah*—the first authenticated pirate shipwreck ever found. Over the decades that followed, he continued to study, conserve, and interpret the artifacts recovered from the site. He built a museum. Most remarkably, he never sold the treasure.

For nearly forty years, I followed the story of the *Whydah*—and the man who

Hidden Treasure: What Is a Concretion?

A concretion forms when metal artifacts remain submerged in seawater for long periods. Corrosion products combine sand, shell fragments, and marine deposits to create a rock-like mass that can completely conceal the objects inside. Archaeologists often use X-rays and conservation techniques to determine what lies hidden within before carefully removing the surrounding material. Many of the Whydah's most important discoveries began as unremarkable-looking concretions recovered from the ocean floor.



Concretion Display, Whydah Pirate Museum, Photograph by Katherine Jones

found her. This past May, before our New England Region Parrot Head Convention, something of a pirate adventure, I finally had the opportunity to meet Barry at the Whydah Pirate Museum in West Yarmouth.

What followed was far more than a museum visit.

Barry gave me a tour of the exhibits, conservation areas, and artifacts that have shaped his life's work. Over lunch, our conversation wandered through shipwrecks, dreams, archaeology, pirates, history, setbacks, discoveries, and the strange paths that lead people toward adventure.

What surprised me most was that Barry rarely spoke about treasure itself.

Instead, he spoke about stories. Stories hidden in artifacts. Stories overlooked by history. Stories that still have the power to change how we understand the past.

"The treasure now is telling the story."

— Barry Clifford

If you've spent any time around Parrot Heads, you've probably learned that treasure isn't always gold.

Putting the Puzzle Together

More than twenty years ago, a *New York Times* museum feature described Barry Clifford's work as "putting together the puzzle." Decades later, that theme still runs through his work. Whether examining artifacts recovered from the Whydah, interpreting pirate history, or searching for new discoveries, Barry remains focused on assembling fragments into a larger story.

The treasure, he insists, is no longer about the gold, It's the story.



Brandon Clifford working a sluice box looking for heavy metals, Photograph courtesy of Barry Clifford
Brandon has worked with his father since he was 7 years old. Now he oversees the Whydah Project.

Sometimes it's a story.

I recently spent an afternoon talking with Barry Clifford, best known for discovering the *Whydah*, the pirate ship of Samuel "Black Sam" Bellamy that sank off Cape Cod in 1717. Over the years, Barry has searched for shipwrecks around the world, battled storms, skeptics, lawsuits, governments, and the occasional bureaucrats. He has also accumulated enough stories to fill a fleet of ships. What struck me most wasn't the treasure. It was the storyteller. At one point, Barry pulled out a journal entry he had written at four o'clock in the morning shortly after finding the *Whydah*.

"My heart sang with relief. At last, we found it. My soul left my body for an instant. I felt suspended in a vacuum of pure air."

For most people, discovering a legendary pirate ship would be the culmination of a lifetime dream. For Barry, it was another chapter in a life built on perseverance and an unwavering belief that the next clue is always waiting to be found.

When I asked him what a truly bad day looked like during the long search for the *Whydah*, he surprised me.

"I don't have bad days. I never give up."

Perhaps the most surprising thing Barry told me about was what he had *not* done.



Treasure Chest, Whydah Pirate Museum

Who Was Maria?

According to local Cape Cod legend, Maria Hallett—often known as the "Witch of Wellfleet"—was the lover of Samuel "Black Sam" Bellamy, captain of the *Whydah*. Folklore holds that Bellamy planned to return to Cape Cod and marry Maria after one final voyage. Instead, the *Whydah* was lost in a storm off Wellfleet in 1717.



Margot Clifford, Barry's Wife, getting ready to portray Maria in the National Geographic film

Again and again, he returned to the same point:

He has not sold the treasure. In a world that often measures success by what can be monetized, Barry's focus remains elsewhere. The artifacts recovered from the *Whydah* have become vehicles for telling stories—about pirates, freedom, democracy, survival, and the people who sailed aboard the ship.

"The treasure now is telling the story," He said.

After spending decades searching for the *Whydah*, he seems far more interested in preserving its legacy than cashing it in.

The night before finding the *Whydah*, Barry dreamed of a mysterious woman he called Maria. The next day, the wreck was found. Years later in Madagascar, while searching for Captain Kidd's ship, he experienced another vivid dream involving an ancient crucifix. The following day, a diver surfaced holding an ivory crucifix remarkably similar to the one he had seen in the dream.

Barry tells these stories without demanding belief.

He simply offers them as part of the strange and unpredictable journey of exploration.

Whether you view them as coincidence, intuition, or something beyond explanation is entirely up to you. As our conversation continued, I realized that the artifacts were only the beginning. What fascinated Barry most

Barry quoted from an account by historian Sara Schubert: **"She was sitting underneath an apple tree** covered by a white mist of apple blossoms... Maria was a beautiful woman, with **long hair the color of straw and eyes as deep and blue as a freshwater pond."**

Over the centuries, Maria became a central figure in the legends surrounding Bellamy and the Whydah. The night before discovering the wreck, Barry Clifford dreamed of a mysterious woman he identified as Maria. The following day, his team located the shipwreck.

Whether viewed as history, folklore, intuition, coincidence, or something more mysterious, Maria remains an enduring part of the Whydah story.

were the people and histories hidden behind them.

Barry often returns to the difficult choices faced by ordinary people in the early eighteenth century. For some, the alternatives were grim: serve systems built on exploitation or join outlaws who offered a different—and often dangerous kind of freedom.

While many people think of pirates as little more than outlaws chasing gold, Barry sees a more complicated and more human story.

He spoke passionately about the diverse crews that sailed aboard pirate ships and the opportunities they offered to people who had few rights elsewhere. He described pirate crews as early experiments in self-governance, places where backgrounds mattered less than contribution and loyalty.

Whether discussing Black Sam Bellamy, formerly enslaved Africans who joined pirate crews, or the democratic practices that existed aboard some pirate vessels, Barry remains fascinated by the people behind the legends.

History, he believes, still has stories left to tell.

Of course, chasing those stories has not always been easy. Barry has spent decades defending discoveries, responding to critics, and weathering controversies that might have convinced a less determined person to walk away.

Yet he remains focused on the next adventure.

Whydah Pirate Museum

<https://www.discoverpirates.com/>



Near the end of our conversation, Barry mentioned a lyric that has stayed with him through the years:

"Going home to a place I've never been before."

It felt like an unexpected summary of his life. Most of us spend our lives trying to find our place in the world.

Barry Clifford seems content spending his life searching for places no one has found yet. *And perhaps that's the greatest treasure of all.*

He never sold the treasure.

He built a museum.

He still believes the next discovery is out there.

Perhaps that is *why*, after all these years, Barry Clifford remains the most optimistic person I have ever met.



UPCOMING EVENTS – See [Event Page](#) for more info!

Thirsty Thursdays!

Thirsty Thursdays are at our usual locations usually the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. Info will be posted to our website and to our Facebook page! We hope to see you all soon!!





From the Office of the Treasurer

Hi everyone,


I hope you are all enjoying the summer and celebrating our nation's 250th birthday, whether by land or sea. We are currently on vacation in Pennsylvania and will be heading to North Carolina next. We won't be back until after July 4th.

Please find the financial summary below:

- Starting Checking Balance (3/30/26): **\$4,606.60**
- **Total Credits: \$436.13**
- **Total Debits: \$696.61**
- Ending Checking Balance (6/26/26): **\$4346.12**

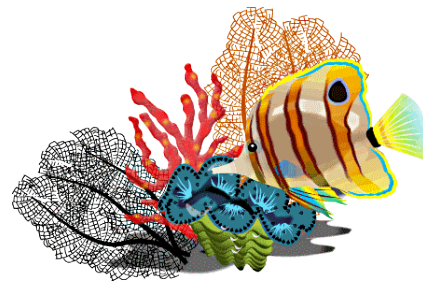
Our Phin fund aka Savings starting balance was **\$475.85** and earned **\$.06** in interest for the second quarter of 2026. Ending balance of 6/26/26 was **\$475.91**

If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached by email.

Happy Fourth of July!! 

Best regards,

Barbara “Babs” O’Connor, Treasurer



From the Office of the Membership

Hello PHCoEM Members.

Happy 250th 4th of July. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and that you enjoy all the events going on when you can.

If you do a volunteer event that you would like to share with our members PLEASE reach out to me or any of the board members so that we can add it to our calendar, we are all about volunteering.

Here's to an amazing Summer of fun that is full of wonderful adventures.

Phins Up,

Sunshine (Karen Feldeisen)
Membership Director 2025-Present
Webmistress 2025-Present





**Happy Birthday to those completing
another Trip Around the Sun!**

<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>
Patti Smith - 10	Jayne Murphy - 1	Nancy Butkus - 2
Jodi Deldon - 12	Sheryl Davis - 3	Kitty Jones - 5
Dan Tobin - 12	Christopher Jakubiak - 6	Owen Milliken - 7
Jean Duffill - 13	Kendall Vail - 16	John Gibree - 8
Steve DePaolo - 16	Heather DePaolo - 26	Kelly Connerton - 11
Martha Swindler - 30		Terri Weissenberg - 12
		Sunshine Feldeisen - 23
		Kat Kisich - 24
		John Whittle - 26
		Donna Bibaud - 27





Firecracker Red, White and Blue Cake

- **Ingredients:6**
- **Servings:12**

Wondering how to make a red, white and blue cake? Wonder no more. Warm summer months call for red, white and blue cake ideas, and have we got a great recipe for you! Celebrate Fourth of July in style with a Firecracker Red, White and Blue Cake made from Betty Crocker™ Super Moist™ White Cake Mix, Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy Vanilla Frosting and red and blue food colors.

Ingredient

- [1 box Betty Crocker™ Super Moist™ White Cake Mix](#)
- Water, vegetable oil and whole eggs called for on cake mix box
- 1 1/4 teaspoons red gel food color from 1 box Betty Crocker™ Classic Gel Food Color
- 1 1/4 teaspoons blue gel food color from 1 box Betty Crocker™ Classic Gel Food Color
- [1/2 cup from 1 tub \(16 oz\) Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy Vanilla Frosting](#)
- 2 teaspoons Betty Crocker™ Red, White & Blue Sprinkles, if desired

Instructions

1. Step 1

Heat oven to 350°F. Generously spray 12-cup fluted tube cake pan with baking spray with flour.

2. Step 2

In large bowl, beat cake mix, water, oil and whole eggs with electric mixer on medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. In small bowl, place 1 cup of the batter; stir in 1 teaspoon of the red food color until blended. In another small bowl, place 1 cup of the batter; stir in 1 teaspoon of the blue food color until blended.

3. Step 3

Pour red cake batter into bottom of pan. Carefully pour remaining white batter over red batter in pan. Carefully pour blue batter over white batter. (Blue batter does not need to cover white batter completely; it looks better if it just forms a ring in the center of the white batter.)

4. Step 4

Bake 39 to 44 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove cake from oven. Let stand 10 minutes, remove from pan to cooling rack. Cool completely, about 1 hour.

5. Step 5

Place cake on cooling rack over waxed paper or cooking parchment paper. In small microwavable bowl, place 1/4 cup of the frosting. Microwave uncovered on High 10 to 15 seconds or until thin enough to drizzle over cake. With spoon, drizzle warmed frosting back and forth over cake in striping pattern. Divide remaining frosting between 2 small microwavable bowls. To 1 bowl, stir in 1/4 teaspoon red food color until well blended. Microwave uncovered on High 5 to 10 seconds or until thin enough to drizzle. Drizzle over cake. Repeat with remaining bowl of frosting and 1/4 teaspoon blue food color. Sprinkle candy sprinkles on top. Let stand about 30 minutes or until frosting is set. Store loosely covered at room temperature.

Recipe Tips

1. When you add batter to pan, do not mix with spoon. Just pour in so colors don't mix but rather just rest on top of each other in pan.
2. We like using baking spray with flour when baking our red, white and blue bundt cake for easy removal from pan. Greasing pans with shortening and lightly dusting with flour will also work.
3. Watch closely while warming frosting in the microwave; it doesn't need a lot of time before it starts to melt down into a looser texture for drizzling.



THE BORED:

Donna “Mac” McCarthy – President (President@phcoem.com)

Katherine “Kitty” Jones – Vice-President (VP@phcoem.com)

Liz “L12” McCarthy – Secretary (Secretary@phcoem.com)

Barbara “Babs” O’Connor – Treasurer (Treasurer@phcoem.com)

Sunshine (aka Karen Feldeisen) – Membership Director (Membership@phcoem.com)

Sunshine (aka Karen Feldeisen) Webmistress (webmistress@phcoem.com)

Anyone wishing to share information within this newsletter, please send your articles to newsletter@phcoem.com.

If you have questions about our website, please send an email to phcoemadmin@phcoem.com.

REFERENCE LINKS:

National Chapter Parrot Heads in Paradise at: www.phip.com

PHCOEM Website page at www.phcoem.com

PHCOEM Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/56394897109>

Northeast Regional Parrot Head Convention Committee at: www.nerphc.org

