



JACK GRAY

It's Times Like These....

What a wild ride... Just as I had anticipated, it did get a whole lot faster and bit scarier, but what do you expect for **October**? Hope you were able to gather up the courage to jump, tuck, and roll, before you were forced to hang-on for the duration...

Last week I was driving over the **Myakka River Bridge** with the windows down on a beautiful autumn afternoon. I was thinking about this **Crazy World**, and what has become of it... My thoughts brought me back to some good old times, lost love, and missed friends... Just then a song came on the radio, and a rush went through me that I just can't describe... It's like the words were meant for exactly what I was feeling at that time... It was so powerful, it brought a tear to my eye, and the melody has been with me ever since. These are extraordinary times in so many ways, and just as the chorus states, "it's times like these you learn to live again". You find out whom you can count on, who is important to you, and what you really want out of life... I hope you are as lucky as I, and have surrounded yourself with some good people, and some great times too... If not, come out and join **The Parrot** at an event this month... If you're going for a ride anyway, might as well *let your hair down and have some fun!* Much less stress that way... Really...

Talking about wild times with **The Parrot**, we decided to have a **Parrot Bash** of our own to wrap up **September**. Friends, clients, and dignitaries from all over the **Suncoast**, gathered at **The Parrot Headquarters** located at **1001 Corporate Ave in North Port** for a **Client Appreciation Party** on the evening of **September 26th**. **Beans & Seeds** kicked off the bash with their acoustic duo, and quickly got the crowd in the mood for a great evening.... Our friends at **Gold Coast Eagle Budweiser** hooked us up with plenty of **BUD** and **BUD LIGHT**, **Southern Wine & Spirits** busted out a couple cases of wine, **Chicago Pizza** kept all of us well fed with some awesome ziti and their signature **Chicago Style Pizza**... Great stuff! I have never



Robin West

seen the bay look so good! **Fort Ogdan Gardens** helped us decorate the place with dozens of plants, and **American Florist of North Port** brought out the most beautiful centerpieces you'd ever seen! **Simply Yum Yum Bakery** in Englewood, proved that they got their name right with the awesome **Parrot Cake**... *MMMM Yum Yum!* I also want to thank **Benedetto's** who hooked us up with all the tables, chairs, and even brought out the stage for the bands... **Thanks Guys for making our first Parrot Party at our place, a great success!!!**

We gave away lots of goodies including a bunch of **BUD** gear and even a "StayCation Package" compliments of **Condos by Sirata** on beautiful **St. Pete Beach!** Then we kicked in the groove as the **GrooveMonsters** took the stage with their brand of sultry soul, and Motown sound. They had the crowd singin' and dancin' all evening! *What a blast!* I think everyone had a great time, and I hope that this event helps to illustrate that we do appreciate all of the people who have come together to make this publication a great success! **Thank You, we couldn't do all this without your support!** *Note: wine is fine, but tequila will kill ya...*

Then, I had the chance to see one of my all-time local favorites **Greg Billings** and his band during the kickoff of the **3rd Annual West Coast Bike Rally, Friday October 10th 2008**. **Gold Coast Eagle Budweiser** sponsored the event that started with a **Rock N' Rumble** on **Main Street** in downtown **Lakewood Ranch**... Talk about a party in the street... Thousands turned out to jam with the **Greg Billings Band**. Even **Cowhead**, and **Galvin** from **102.5 The Bone** was there, and joined **Greg** on the stage... They joined in on some **ACDC** tunes. Either they can really sing, or they turned their mics down... At least they looked good, and had some fun tossing out some t-shirts out to the crowd... **Greg** put on quite a set showcasing his new CD. He took us all back in time with some old



Beans & Seeds



Stranger tunes, and **Damn The Torpedoes** stuff... At one point even pulled out some old vinyl to prove to everyone he used to have *big hair* back in the **Stranger** days! The show was more like a big party, than a concert... It was just like hangin, and jammin, with a couple thousand of your closest friends! What a night!

The rally continued over next two days at the **Manatee County Fairgrounds**. Bikers from all over came out to show off their toys, and check out some great bands... **The Parrot** brought out our **Parrot Chopper** and sold some raffle tickets... *Yes, it could be yours!* **Tickets are just \$20 or 3 for \$50**. The drawing is to be held during the **Lone Star Bike Rally** out in **Texas!** Don't miss your chance to own this fine machine... We also had on hand our newest addition, the stretch cart (yet un-named) provided by **Thoroughbred Golf Carts** located in **Placida FL**. **Saturday** kicked off with **The Jam Band**, then **Live Wire** took the stage for the afternoon ride, and then came one of my favorite local acts, **Highway To Hell!** If you haven't had the opportunity to check out **H2H**, what are you waiting for...? These guys are great; they really know how to get the crowd pumped up! Totally over the top, and that's the way we like it! Day two's line-up included **Scott Meyers Acoustics**, **Dr Dave**, and **Psycho Devils**. I met some great people out there, and saw some major mobile works of art passing by **The Parrot** booth too... Since a



New Parrot Toy!



By Thoroughbred Golf Carts



Party Pics Provided By:
Robert Shaneline Photography
www.EnglewoodBay.com

picture's worth a thousand words, I'll write less, and post more pics of the event, enjoy.

Last week I had the opportunity to cover **The Super Bowl XLIII Host Committee Luncheon** with **NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell**. **Keith Cates** from **WFLA News Channel 8** emceed the event at the **Marriott Waterside in Tampa**. How fortunate all of us are in **Central and SW Florida** are to not only have the **Super Bowl** here this year, but the **World Series Too!** *How cool is that!* **GO RAYS!** I can't wait for **Spring Training** to start in my back yard at the newly renovated **Charlotte County Sports Park in Port Charlotte**. I knew getting **The Rays**, and the new **Ripkin Baseball** farm team, to play here in **Charlotte County** would be big, but this is **HUGE... HUGE!!!** As **The Donald** would say... Whether you're a fan, or not, the publicity and economic impact that professional sports brings to our area with these events is **EXACTLY** what we needed to spark some interest, and help put us on the map!

Speaking of putting us on the map... Now that I am the **Tourism Development Chair** for the **Englewood/ Cape Haze Chamber of Commerce**, I have been fortunate to work with so many great organizations and leaders in the community to make some great things happen around here... On **November 15th, State Road 776** will be designated an official "Scenic

Highway from the split-off starting at **US 41 in Venice** to the crossing of **US 41 in Port Charlotte**... **The Lemon Bay/ Myakka Trail** will be it's new designation. The trail will be featured in maps and literature everywhere in the world bringing much needed interest and tourists to the area. I am also happy to announce **The Englewood Chamber** is hosting the **First Annual Tourism Development Conference** at **Gasparilla Marina in Placida, November 13th** to discuss some of the great opportunities that this area can offer. If you are a business owner in the area, **don't miss this event!** Contact the **Englewood Chamber** at: **941-474-5511** to register.

Many people don't realize that our area beaches are noted for being the **Shark Tooth** capitol of the world... We have by far the best **Tarpon Fishing** you'll find anywhere. With dozens of local golf courses, kayak trails, nature preserves, and unspoiled land, this area is the best destination for all you *city slickers* that want to wind-down and get away from it all for a while... Even the locals stay here for vacation... **Jamie White** from **Islander Properties** has a saying... You don't have to go far to find paradise... **"Save The Gas, & Just Cross The Pass"**. Right now that sounds like a great idea!

Next month I hope to have an update from our friends out in **Galveston** whom Ike has hit pretty hard... It's times like these you give, and give again... **The Lone Star Bike Rally** had to be pushed back to **December 11th** through the **14th** as a result... They are working feverishly to rebuild the town of **Galveston**, and I am confident that it will be put back together good as new in short order... Our heart goes out to all that have been impacted by the storm... Special *thanks* to all that have contributed during our supply drive! *Your generosity is outstanding...* **THANK YOU!** Also special *thanks* to **Harbor Nissan** for their efforts, and helping to get the goodies out to them... **SAAAALLUUUUTE!**

Next month we will lead-in to the holidays with our special **Area Artist Edition**... I've spent the last few weeks meeting many of the local artisans from **Punta Gorda, to Sarasota**. I hope to make it up to some of the galleries in **St. Pete** this month too... I heard **Dali** has a huge sale going on, and time is slipping away!

I was able get some great art shots out on **Boca Grande** this past weekend, **Oct 18th**, at the **Boca Grande Street Party**. The **Boca Band** was out there jammin' all day. I even got to stop in the **Boca Grille** and listen to the acoustic serenade of my good friend **Shawn Brown** for a while. *Perfect!* The **Boca Grande Art Alliance** put on a great gathering downtown that showed off some of the island's local artistic talent, and kept us all busy so **Jesse, Sara**, and the rest of their entourage, could do their thing... *Congratulations!* I didn't get any celeb shots, bummer, but I did get to watch the ceremony at sunset on the beach... Wow, now that was beautiful!

To wrap up this month's festivities, I made it down to **The Placida Rotary Seafood Festival** on the tip of **The Cape Haze Peninsula** to do a little holiday shopping, have a couple cold **Buds**, and listen to my good bud **Jack Mosley** play... *It was very nice to see you out there.* It was a perfect day. This event just gets bigger every year... **Great Job!** If *you* are looking to do some holiday shopping, **The Englewood Rotary Winter Fine Arts Festival** will be on **Dearborn Street in Englewood, December 6th and 7th**. *If you want to give a gift that's really from the heart, don't shop at the mall, give the gift of art!*

As we slide into the holiday season, look out for each other, work together for the common good, and remember to check your **Karma Bank**... It's times like these you learn to love again...

Look in each edition of **The Parrot Entertainment Magazine**, and check on our website at: www.SWFLParrot.com for more pictures, and all the latest information on what's going on in **Central and SW FL** time, and time again... *Hope to see you at the next event!*

*I, I'm a new day rising, I'm a brand new sky...
To hang the stars upon tonight
I, I'm a little divided, Do I stay or run away...
And leave it all behind?*

*It's times like these you learn to live again
It's times like these you give and give again
It's times like these you learn to love again
It's times like these time and time again*
Foo Fighters - One by One



CONCERT



The Greg Billings Band



NFL Commissioner Goodell Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa!



Highway To Hell



West Coast Bike Rally

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