



The Charge!

Volume 1995/96

Voice of the Peoria Jaycees'

April 1996

Jaycees Announce Earth Day Festivities

Earth Day 1996 is to be held on Monday, April 22 and the Peoria Jaycees has a whole host of activities planned. "This is going to be the most exciting Earth Day in Central Illinois... ever!", exclaimed Peoria Jaycees president **Steven J. West** at a press conference on April 1. Commander West also claimed that the Peoria based volunteer organization was fired up and enthusiastic about the Earth Day projects it has planned. The now defunct Nature Conservancy committee reunited to handle the various activities that are to take place. Headed up by **Beth Barr** and **Andrea Peters**, several different types of projects to promote Earth Day and the environment will take place with different "teams" carrying out different assignments (see tentative schedule of events on page 3). "I'm really excited about this", stated Ms. Peters, "it's good to see that the Jaycees are concerned about the Earth's environment and are ready to do something about it. I just hope we have enough hours in the day to get everything done."

During the press conference, Ms. Barr and Ms. Peters explained how each team divided the project work. **Dan Schmidt** has volunteered to head the team to burn old truck tires in a corn field (in which Dan said 'burning tires makes you strong'). **Rusty Greene** is in charge of the team to dump volatile car batteries in the Illinois River. Another team, lead by **Cindy Schwerer**, is set to cut down several oak trees, making birds and squirrels homeless. Cindy was especially fond of this project as she had stated "The best thing about a tree is what you do with it after you cut it down." A fourth team which has yet to be assigned a leader will be releasing freon from air conditioners into the atmosphere. "The opportunities for Earth Day are endless", stated Ms. Barr, "we would like to encourage as many people as we can for our Earth Day festivities." If you are interested in helping out on Earth Day, please call the Jaycees hotline. And just remember, every day is Earth Day!

Jaycee Member Sues British Health Authorities

An irate Peoria Jaycee member is suing the British Health Authorities for a record \$25 million over copyright infringement. **Jeffrey 'Mad Dog' Bilsland**, a 32 year old air conditioner salesman, claims that the British Health Authorities deliberately used his name for their current beef disease, better known as 'Mad Cow' disease. "My rights have been violated," the hyperactive Mr. Bilsland exclaimed, "I feel so cheap and used and it's going to take \$25 million for me to recover." According to Bilsland's attorney, **Steven J. West**, Mad Cow disease affects the brain, de-generating it's brain cells. "I don't think it will be much of a challenge to convince a judge in a court of law that Mr. Bilsland's brain cells are de-generating," Mr. West added, "and therefore, Mr. Bilsland deserves the copyrighted name of 'Mad'."

Currently, Mr. West is assembling his legal team for the unprecedented trial of the millennium. Thus far, Mr. West has recruited the efforts of **Robert Shapiro** and **Johnnie Cochran**. Attorney **F. Lee Bailey** had been contacted by West, but was unable to commit to the trial due to other circumstances.

Correction

In the last issue of *The Charge*, the opening story entitled '*The 4th Annual International Beer Festival: The Official Report*' failed to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of PR guru **Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt**. The two co-chairmen of the beer fest project are truly and sincerely sorry and beg the complete forgiveness of the Friar. The chairmen now bow to Dan and chant 'We're not worthy, we're not worthy!'

Dan was in charge of public relations for the beer fest and did a great job in dealing with the media and press. As soon as TV 25 and 31 showed up with their video cameras, Dan efficiently guided them towards **Dennis Owens**, in which it was up to Dennis to handle the media's questions. Keep up the good work, Dan!

From The Desk of the Most Dangerous Writer in America

by Rick Owens

There is an old saying that goes *'If it's in print, it's gotta be true'*! Well, the saying is something like that. Anyway, this month's newsletter is really going to put that adage to the test. For April Fool's Day, this issue of *The Charge* is a special April Fool's edition. If you believe everything that is written in here, you are a bigger fool than anyone has ever given you credit for.

But then again, knowing this group, one really doesn't know what to believe. Articles in this publication could be totally made up, could be half truths or, could actually be the real thing! Who knows?

Another way to find out what is really going on other than reading this highly acclaimed publication is the membership meetings. For example, at the March meeting, by unanimous choice, the chapter supports the re-election of **Rick Owens** to the position of editor of the newsletter. Is it another year of irresponsible journalism, cheap sensationalism or just news that was written so it's fun to read?

Also by popular choice, the chapter supports the re-election of **Steve West** for president. "Four More Years", was chanted by the chapter in the upstairs meeting room at the Amvets. Trying to secure votes in the upcoming election, the Commander asked the chapter "Are you better off now or a year ago before I took office?" Steve also added, "Yes, I feel your pain."

Until next month, I thank you for your support!

The Charge
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Disclaimer: Portions of this newsletter are used for entertainment purposes only and they should not be taken seriously.

Mark Your Calendars

April

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours; Thursday, April 11, 5:00pm, O'Leary's, 3300 Willow Knolls Rd - call Commander West

Peoria Heights Jaycees Lawnmower Clinic; Saturday, April 13, 8:00am - call Rita at 579-2823

Membership Meeting; Thursday, April 18, 7:00pm, Amvets, downtown Peoria, Election Night - call Commander West

Earth Day; Monday, April 22 - see schedule on Page 3

Epicurean Night; Thursday, April 25, 6:30pm, Sky Harbor, S. Airport Rd. - Call Sue Wilbur

Spring Regional; Saturday, April 27, 2:00pm, Canton VFW, theme is 'Looney Tunes' - call Rusty Greene

May

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours; Thursday, May 9, 5:00pm - call Commander West for location

Installation Banquet; Thursday, May 9, 6:30pm, Alexander St. Steakhouse - call Commander Steven J. West

Friday Fest; Friday, May 10, 5:00pm, downtown Peoria - call 'Friar' Dan Schmidt

State Convention; Friday, May 10 - May 12, Rosemont Convention Center, Chicago - call Rusty Greene or the Commander

Membership Meeting; Thursday, May 16, 7:00pm, Amvets, downtown Peoria - call Commander West

Riverfront Grand Opening; Friday, May 31 - June 2, call the 'Friar' Schmidt

June

Board Meeting; Thursday, June 6, 6:30pm, location TBA - call Commander West

SteamBoat Days; Friday, June 14 - 16, call the 'Good Friar'

Membership Meeting; Thursday, June 20, 7:00pm, Amvets, downtown Peoria - call the Commander

Epicurean Corner

By Susan Wilbur



The last Epicurean Night was held on Sunday, March 24th at the Par-A-Dice. Only **Kathy Pulfer** and **Sue Wilbur** showed for this outing, but little did they know that they were in for the time of their life. As the two women patiently waited for other Jaycees to arrive, Kathy notice an older and

distinguished gentleman walk into the establishment. The gentleman looked very familiar, but she could not identify him at first. However, she continued to notice him sitting at the bar drinking rum and Cokes.

Finally after building enough courage, Kathy and Sue approached the man and asked where they knew him. He asked that maybe they had seen his show the night before at the Civic Center Theater. They embarrassingly said no, but then they realized who they were talking to; it was **Tony Bennett**.

Mr. Bennett invited them to sit with him and he offered to buy the two women a drink. As the conversation carried on, Kathy and Sue learned that Mr. Bennett was once a member of the San Francisco Jaycees. Also, Sue was becoming curious as to why Mr. Bennett was always smiling. "How come you're so damn happy and cheerful all the time," Susan asked. "That's because I'm now a spokesman for Equal sugar substitute," Mr. Bennett responded, "and I have to really use this stuff."

Later that evening, Sue and Kathy were invited back to Mr. Bennett's hotel room at the Pere Marquette for a small jam session with other friends. Of the songs they played, Sue had requested *Smelly Cat*, from the hit television series *Friends*. "You never know what's going to happen at these Epicurean Nights", Sue stated.

The Next Epicurean Night

Due to Peoria Airport expansion, Sky Harbor is to close sometime in the near future. Therefore, the next Epicurean Night is scheduled to be at Sky Harbor on Thursday, April 25th at 6:30pm (assuming they haven't closed yet). If you have any questions, need directions or have an idea for any future Epicurean outings, call **Sue Wilbur** at 685-8365. And as always, there will be updates and more information at the membership meeting.

Earth Day Tentative Schedule

6:00am Owl Team - (*Dennis Owens*) Up and at 'em. Early morning hunting expedition for Spotted Owls. No need to save the bird for eating or mounting; just use for target practice.

8:00am Freon Team - (*need leader*) Go to local car dealerships and request to disconnect catalytic converters on cars and fill with leaded gasoline. Cut holes in air conditioners for freon leak.

9:00am Truck Tire Team - (*Dan Schmidt*) Round up several old rubber truck tires and transport to local corn or bean field. Using gasoline, set on fire and let burn.

10:00am Battery Team - (*Rustin A. Greene*) Stop at auto graveyard and get as many volatile car batteries as possible. Take boat out on the river and dump batteries overboard.

11:00am Styrofoam Team - (*need leader*) Pick up several truck loads of plastic and styrofoam. Dump in wooded area.

12:00pm Everyone meet for Lunch! Having some kind of red meat where an animal had to be slaughtered. Remember to save trash so it can be tossed on the side of the road.

1:00pm LumberJack Team - (*Cindy Schwerer*) With chain saw in hand, head out to wooded area and proceed to cut down large oak trees. Goal set at 50 trees.

2:00pm Chemical Team - (*Rick Owens*) Collect pesticides and herbicides and dump into wooded areas. Close to wildlife refuges would be ideal. Agent Orange, DDT are best bets for chemicals; like DuPont says, '*better living through chemicals*'.

3:00pm Oil Team - (*Steve West*) Hijack an Exxon oil barge on the Illinois River and run aground on rocks. Allow oil leakage.

4:00pm Chlorine Team - (*need leader*) Dump vast amounts of chlorine near fish hatchery so water may stay clean and clear for the little fishies.

5:00pm It was a hard day saving the Earth's environment. It's time for Happy Hour! Be sure to save beer bottles for landfill.

This Space For Rent!

This newsletter reaches over 230 individuals and companies every month. If you have some interesting news that you think the Peoria Jaycees or the Peoria community would like to read about, please send it to Rick Owens, 1010 Wonderview Dr, Dunlap, IL, 61525 or FAX at (309)691-5196 or E-Mail to 71332,2775@CompuServe.com. The cost for publishing your news is free, so how can you pass up a bargain like that.

Chapter Management

by Valerie Mount

International Beer Fest

The International Beer Fest was a rousing success as usual. Congratulations and thanks to **John Cima** and **Dennis Owens** for their fantastic job with this money maker. Thus far, as of this writing, the IBF has grossed over \$30,000 and we estimate about 3300 people attended the event. Thanks also to **Jeff**



"God" Pulfer for his invaluable assistance with this project. I would like to thank all the Peoria Jaycees who came out and poured beer, cooked, checked IDs, or just generally hung around, for their help in making this our biggest money making project. Also to be acknowledged are those that came out on Friday to help

deliver beer (*Editor's Note: To my disbelief, I actually witnessed Val doing manual labor, no April Fool's joke!*) and do kitchen stuff - **Dubby**, **Sue Wilbur**, **Jeff Pulfer**, **Chuck Holz** (who's he??), **John Cima**, **Dennis Owens**, **Rick Owens** (I know I saw him there at some point), **Jeff Bilsland** and **Commander West**. There's not enough room in the newsletter to thank everyone - you know who you are - including non Peoria Jaycees from Springfield, Canton, Metamora, Prairieland Region and Princeville to name a few that came out and worked.

Congratulations also to **Jeff Bilsland** and **Commander West** for the 'Bilsland Soup Kitchen'. I understand the food project brought in about \$1400 gross. CDVP 'Mad Dog' says the proceeds will benefit our Adopt-A-School program as well as the chapter in general, and a charity or two.

On Saturday, March 30, the IBF Appreciation/Final Four party was held at Party Central (Jeff Pulfer's). Everyone had a great time - thanx Jeff!

Haunted House

Spring is here folks (although someone forgot to tell Mother Nature) and now that **Dennis Owens** has survived the IBF, he's taking on the HAUNTED HOUSE with the assistance of **Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt**. If you are interested in being a sub-chair for our second biggest project, please give Dennis (693-8771) or Dan (674-5290) a call. (Dennis can usually be talked into anything - how about the 1996/97 President of the PEORIA JAYCEES, Dennis??)

Ladies Take Note

There are several 'gentlemen' in the Peoria Jaycees who have confided in me that their lives would be much better (for various reasons) if they had a girlfriend. If you are interested, please contact me (Valerie) for information and/or introductory purposes.

Building Fund

In March of 1994, the Peoria Jaycees established a building fund with Charles Schwab in Schamburg, IL. The chapter invested money in several mutual funds, some that carried additional risks (i.e. emerging markets, international growth). Since it's inception, our account has only returned an annualized rate of roughly 8.6%. Rather depressing since the Dow Jones Industrial Average returned 33.5% last year.

Rick Owens has brought this matter to the board at the last board meeting and suggested in moving the building fund account to a brokerage here in Peoria, where we would be known by name and face, instead of a number like at Charles Schwab. Also, Rick has suggested getting out of some of these mutual funds and into something more conservative and stable growth oriented.



We are currently seeking a local brokerage. If you have a friend or relative in the area who you would like to see get business from the Peoria Jaycees, please call **Rick Owens** at 243-7319. Upon approval from the board and the chapter, we hope to start transferring our funds in time for our new board to take office.

Elections

April is a big month for our chapter - it's ELECTION time. Please contact **Steve West** or **Alan Pennington** if you'd like some more information on the duties of the officers. Elections are 7:00pm, Thursday, April 18, 1996 at the Amvets. Several people announced for positions at the March membership meeting:

President -	Open
Chapter Mgmt VP -	John Cima
Community Development VP -	Open
Membership VP -	Kathy Pulfer
Secretary -	Open (but Kathy Pulfer was interested)
Treasurer -	Cindy Schwerer
Powerful State Director -	Jason Arends
Local Directors -	Rusty Greene, Joe Burkitt

It's not too late for you - all you need is to be in good standing in the chapter (not owe us money!), be a paid regular member as of April 1, 1996 and to have someone nominate you and have a second for the nomination the night of the elections. If you have further questions, call **Steve West** at 676-5292.

Finally, from **Marie Martin** and myself - we'd like to thank the leprechaun that left us carnations - Marie's in her door and mine on her front porch. Has **Midnight** struck again?

Membership Report *by John Cima*

Who's Due

In April, the following members are due:

Joe Binder	Kim Ingledew
Michael Godar	John Longeville
Julie Heller	

In May, the following members will be due:

No one

Membership Status

We ended up breaking even in March. We re-signed six of the twelve members that were due, and added six new members. They include **Becky Cassidy** (referred by **Dan Schmidt**); **Scott Sucha** (referred by **Dave Merritt**); **Cindy Wrobel** (referred by **Jeff Pulfer** - she likes stout beers, which is always a plus in a woman!); **Rod Skewes** (a former President who wanted to renew even though he's moved to Tennessee - how's that for dedication!) and **Jenny Young** and **Heather Schoemann** (referred by **Jeff Pulfer** - he's been working on these two for quite a while).

April is already looking promising. Between people who attended either the March membership meeting and/or the IBF Appreciation party, we have solid leads on 2-6 potential new recruits (although many of you will be disappointed to know that **Dan Schmidt's** friend **Warren** is not included on the list, as he lives in the Chicago area - sorry!).

As many of you know, it is likely that **Jeff Pulfer** will not be with us six months from now (not a terminal illness, just moving for work). That means that the rest of us are going to have to get off of our sorry asses (strictly a term of endearment) and take up the recruiting slack in his absence. Otherwise, the chapter is going to be in deep doo-doo in terms of its membership status for the remainder of 1996 and beyond.

Incentive

If we sign 11 new members from March to May, **Dave McGarvey** promised us a keg of beer. We already have at least 6. Five more members to sign by the end of April and we have an excuse for a party. How's that for incentive!

State Director's Report *by Rustin A. Greene*



It is I, **Rustin A. Greene**, the State Director for the Peoria Jaycees, and yielding so much raw POWER. It's that time again to inform you pagans on upcoming region and state events. But first, I want to share with you my latest adventures. Recently, I've been working on a remodeling effort on my house. In trying to re-wire the upstairs, I noticed I got a blister on my right thumb. You know how that hurts. And then I popped it and then all that liquid stuff comes out, you know... but I'm fine now and ready to give you my report.

Peoria Heights Lawn Mower Clinic

The Peoria Heights Jaycees are holding their annual Lawn Mower Clinic on Saturday, April 13, starting at 8:00am at Pal Automotive in Peoria Heights. For \$19, you get your blade sharpened, spark plug replaced, and a host of other services that you would not normally want to handle yourself. And for those of you who have 'problem' mowers, feel free to bring them in as there will likely be someone around who might be able to correct your problem.

For more information, call the Peoria Heights President Rita at 579-2823

Springfield Beerfest

As if the Peoria Jaycees International Beer Fest wasn't enough... the Springfield Jaycees are holding their own beer fest on Friday, April 19th. They are currently in need of beer pourers (and they came to the right people... is that all we are good for!?). If you would like to help out at this event, please give me a call or call the good Commander.

Spring Regional

Coming up on Saturday, April 27th at 2:00pm, the Spring Regional will be hosted by the Canton Jaycees and will be held at the Canton VFW hall. The theme is Loony Tunes and I hope to see all of you there, dressed as your favorite Loony Tune character.

State Convention

The Illinois Jaycees State Convention is going to be held on the weekend of May 10th to May 12 at the Rosemont Convention Center in Rosemont, IL (Chicago for those of you who are geographically challenged). It's also the same weekend as the first Friday Fest in Peoria and it's also Mother's Day, but if you are interested in going, please call myself or Commander West. Hope you can make it.

And as always, I, **Rustin A. Greene**, am very proud to provide thoughts and wisdom to the Peoria Jaycees:

"Life is short. Live it up."

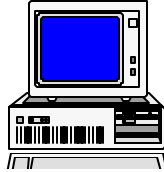
Election Night Peoria Jaycees Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 1996, 7:00PM
Amvets Post #64
at the corner of Monroe & Fayette
downtown Peoria

Jaycees Surfing the Internet

Lookout! The Peoria Jaycees are going high-tech; **Solution Services, Inc.**, Peoria's #1 Internet service provider is going to donate over \$1,400 worth of Internet services, including the Peoria Jaycees webpage and a free Peoria Jaycees access account that includes E-Mail and the world wide web.

Plus, as a special offer to all Peoria Jaycees, Solution Services offers a \$10 a month unlimited Internet access - normally a \$20 value. What does this mean to you? It means *The Charge* will be published on the Internet - Peoria and the rest of the world can access the most valuable and entertaining piece of literature since Shakespeare... well... kinda... and furthermore, the cheapest and fastest Internet connection in Central Illinois. Thank You Solution Services! Friar Out!



For more information, call **Dan Schmidt** at 674-5290.

Friday Fest

The Peoria Area Community Events (PACE) is looking for volunteers to help with their Friday Fests event. The first Friday Fest is to be held on Friday, May 10th starting at 5:00pm in Fulton Plaza in downtown Peoria. PACE is looking for 4 people to sell tickets, 4 people to man the gate and 10 people to serve beer. There are two shifts, 6:00pm to 9:00pm and from 9:00pm to midnight.

There will be a sign up sheet going around at the April membership meeting on April 18. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to help out, call **Dan Schmidt** at 674-5290 to sign up. See you there!

Trophies Placed on Death Row

Several old trophies, mostly bowling trophies, won by past Jaycee members are currently being stored at the Peoria residence of **Jeff 'Mad Dog' Bilslund**. Mad Dog is foaming at the mouth over these items and wants to remove them as soon as possible. If you believe that you won one of these trophies or you would like to take possession of them, please call Jeff Bilslund at 682-2897 to make arrangements to collect them.

These trophies have been placed on death row, and the Mad Dog is going to throw them out if no one collects them by May 31, 1996. Only you have the power to order a stay of execution! Make the phone call.

Peoria Riverfront Grand Opening

The grand opening of the new Peoria Riverfront is to take place on the weekend of May 31st to June 2nd. PACE as usually may need volunteers to help out for this event, i.e. pouring beer. Details at this writing are a bit sketchy, but more information should be available at the April and May membership meetings. Or, call **Dan Schmidt** at 674-5290 for the latest update.

Individual Development

by Diana Barach

Earthquake Dynamics

In the past month, **Jeff Pulfer** traveled to San Francisco and learned about earthquakes, especially what to do when one hits. Jeff picked up a flyer providing this valuable information and would like to share it with the rest of the chapter.

What to do in an Earthquake ---

Before: Conduct practice drills. Physically place yourself in safe locations. Like Wyoming.

Ignore all warnings. This guarantees nothing bad will happen. Remember, mind over matter.

Know the danger spots: unsecured bookshelves, fireplaces, your mother-in-law's house.

Carry a portable phone at all times so you'll be able to call for help from underneath all the rubble.

During: Panic! Whatever you do, panic! This world can always use some more fear, chaos and violence.

Charge admission. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience and well worth a few bucks.

Watch for falling objects, real estate and real estate prices.

After: Take a drive, get in the way of emergency vehicles, go thru stoplights, give everybody the finger. You've just been thru a very traumatic event: you have the right to act like a jerk.

Help the economic recovery. Sell the rubble of your life as souvenirs to tourists.

Throw a party for those who survived. The ruins, fires and sirens will provide a dramatic atmosphere, insuring a unique and memorable evening for all.

Check for gas leaks with a lighted match. That way you'll explode, causing no further damage to anyone.

Community Development

by Jeff 'Mad Dog' Bilsland

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life is to be held at Peoria Stadium on Friday, June 21 - Saturday, June 22. It is an event where teams of up to 12 members each keep at least one person walking a track from 6pm Friday night to 6pm Saturday night. The tracks are lined with luminaries purchased for \$5 in honor of cancer survivors and those not as fortunate. At 10pm, the lights of the Stadium are turned off, luminaries lit and the names read aloud.

The remainder of the event is a celebration, with live entertainment, food, etc. The event will be held simultaneously with the McLean and Tazewell counties. **WMBD-TV** has agreed to be the exclusive broadcast media and five major corporate sponsors are involved, including **Commerce Bank, Country Companies, Kroger's, John Deere Health Plans** and **Caterpillar**.

The American Cancer Society requests manpower assistance from the Peoria Jaycees in some track clean up, lighting of luminaries, etc. between 9pm to 12pm on that Friday night (when they think they will be busiest). If you are interested in helping out that weekend, please call **Rick Owens** at 243-7319 or **Jeff Bilsland** at 682-2897. *Editor's Note: If anything, we should have Bilsland run the track for 24 hours and use up all that energy of his.*

EASTER BUNNY RIDES AGAIN

Greg Myroth, Sandy Pearce and **Shari Quin** did an excellent job of organizing and running the Peoria Jaycee annual Easter Egg Hunt. For those of you who missed it, the event took place on Saturday morning, March 30, 1996, down at lower Bradley park. It was advertised on Channel 5, News 25, and WGLO radio. A special appearance was made by the Easter Bunny played by our own lovely **Beth Barr**.

The Chairpersons received over 2000 donated eggs from Peoria Plastics and candy from several area businesses. Public Service Announcements were sent out with Channel 5 and 25 announcing the event. Sandy Pearce called up WGLO 95.5 to let them know about the event and they put her on the air. What a great radio station! (And they are one of the major sponsors for the Firecracker 5000. What a great radio station! Listen and enjoy.)

The event started at 10:00 am sharp and all the eggs were found by 10:05 am. The kids all seemed to have great time and the Easter Bunny was a hit. Thanks should go to **WGLO 95.5, Channel 25, Channel 5, Peoria Plastics** and all the area businesses that donated candy for the kids. A special thanks should go to **Greg Myroth, Sandy Pearce, and Shari Quin** for organizing and running this event. These three are all new members and did not hesitate to run their first project. They did a great job! Thanks for another successful event.

FIRECRACKER 5000

We have a winner!?! **Dan Schmidt** has volunteered to chair the 14th annual Firecracker 5000 along with **Jeff Bilsland** this year. Oh the fun they will have. Soon you will begin to see the joys of a large project being run. Committee meetings organized, volunteers being called in, Dan and Jeff at each other's throats, just a wonderful experience all around.

This 5K race will be run on the Fourth of July, starting early in the morning. The race will start once again down at the **River Station** on Constitution Avenue. We have confirmed 3 major sponsors for the race, **The River Station, WGLO Radio, and Brewers Distributing**. More major sponsors are being worked on for their possible sponsorship. If you have any connections with businesses that may want to become a major sponsor or a minor sponsor, please contact **Dan Schmidt** or **Jeff Bilsland**.

Last year the Firecracker 5000 was a great success with over 650 runners participating in the race. \$500 was donated to the Moonlight Basketball League, a basketball league in Peoria organized to keep kids off the street, and \$500 was donated to Special Olympics. Also, proceeds helped to finance community development projects the Peoria Jaycees did during the 1995-96 year such as Adopt-A-School, Santa Visits the Kids and the Easter Egg Hunt. This year we plan to donate some of the proceeds to charity and help finance the Community Development project in the 1996-97 year.

This year we will be trying to organize a new area of racing, rollerblading. We plan on making this race bigger than last year's race and we need your help. We need help in getting the word out about the new rollerblading area. You can help by just talking up the event at events you participate in and the people you see during business and personal time. We also need volunteers for race day to watch blocked off streets to protect the runners and many other duties. There are currently subchair opportunities if you would like to get more involved in the race.

Take the opportunity and call **Dan Schmidt** at 674-5290 or **Jeff Bilsland** at 682-2897 and volunteer to help organize the Firecracker 5000. We need your help to help finance projects for kids next year. Please make the call.

Play Ball!!

The Rivermen Game plans to take the Student of the Month and the Honor Roll students from Blaine-Sumner were cancelled. So now we will be taking them to a Peoria Chief's game out a Vonachen Stadium. This is your chance to get involved with some of Peoria's youth and see the new Peoria Chiefs in action.

Jason will be planning to take our children from Blaine-Sumner out to a Chief's game and will be looking for chaperons. If you would like to help out in this program, call **Jason Arends** at 681-1839 or **Jeff Bilsland** at 682-2897.



President's Letter: From the Desk of Commander West

Four More Years... Not!

As we come toward the end of the 1995-96 year, I would like to thank everyone who helped make this year a banner one. I could not have completed my term as your Commander in Chief without your hard work and dedication. I would like to offer special thanks to the current Board for they had to put up with my long winded speeches for an entire year.

The Peoria Jaycees can look back and see what we have accomplished in the past 12 months; the 2nd most successful Firecracker 5000 in it's 13 year history, an extremely successful Haunted House not to mention the largest International Beer Festival yet. Just recently, we hosted the best Easter Egg Hunt ever and we've raised more money for local charities. Recognition and public relations have grown with the Peoria Jaycees as we regularly have members attend public functions such as the City Council meetings and the

Peoria Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. The chapter has also been involved in helping other organizations in their projects, such as the German-American Society with their summer festivals at Hickory Grove Park, PACE during their Friday Fests and Steamboat Days and we helped out at the Easter Seals Wines on the Waterfront project and many others to numerous to mention. Also, I'm proud to say, the Peoria Jaycees has the best chapter newsletter in the world! It seems like every region or state event I go to, someone is talking about the Peoria newsletter.

Some really positive things have been happening within the chapter as of late. For the month of March, we recruited 6 new members. Also, a lot of these new members have been getting involved with Jaycee activities. **Greg Myroth, Sandy Pearce and Shari Quin** done an outstanding job with the Easter Egg Hunt. **John Cima**, who's only been with us for a few months, has done a great job with the membership vice presidency, co-chaired the 1996 IBF and is usually attending every Jaycee event. Good job, John!

The work is not ending with the current year; it's just starting. At our next membership meeting, which is on Thursday, April 18 at 7:00pm at the Amvets Post #64 on the corner of Monroe and Fayette in downtown Peoria, we have our yearly elections. I must encourage you to run for a position on the board as it is a very exciting and fulfilling experience. I would also like to congratulate those of you who are already running for a position. Who ever the next Board of Directors will be, they will inherit a chapter in very good standing, in terms of finance, reputation and members active in the chapter. As for me, I am ready for promotion... I want to be Chairman of the Board (*Editor's Note: Steve may be the Chairman of the Board, but he will always be known as 'The Commander'*). It is time for me to pass down 'the Big One', the gavel, to let another generation take over.

The Jaycees have their installation banquet coming up on Thursday, May 9 at 6:30pm at Alexander's Street Steakhouse. It was a fun time last year and I don't think anyone who was their will ever forget my inauguration address. Please try to make it to the banquet this year.

Our next biggest project coming up is the Firecracker 5000. We already have a chairman and most of the sub chairs, not to mention 3 major sponsors of the project. We also have our liability insurance coming due in July. Thanks in part to the IBF, we have enough set aside funds to cover the premium for the next year, so that will be one less headache for the next board.

Also, for the future, we must work at recruitment. We have been doing an excellent job in that area for the past couple of months, but we can't let our defenses down for a second. As new members have increased, we have been losing current members, keeping our total numbers level. The good news is that we are recruiting good people who get involved. Remember, recruitment is a never ending job that has to be done.

Well, this is what I had to say for this month. Next month will be my last *Charge* article, my swan song if you will. Hope to see you at the membership meeting and good luck if you are running for a board position.

With Regards,
Steve West
the future Chairman of the Board

Top Ten Rejected Individual Development Projects

- 10.) How to operate the Kevorkian suicide machine.
- 9.) Home decor with asbestos.
- 8.) Citizen Band radio usage, with Rusty Greene.
- 7.) Pick up line dynamics.
- 6.) Cooking tips with Mad Cow beef.
- 5.) Tax evasion dynamics.
- 4.) How to hold long and intense board meetings.
- 3.) Writing Top Ten Lists for silly newsletters.
- 2.) How to become a Unibomber with simple household chemicals.
- 1.) Deer slaying techniques presented by Dennis Owens.

Pagan Ritual Held at IBF Appreciation Party

Marquette Hts., IL (AP) - A strange Pagan ritual was performed at the Peoria Jaycees International Beer Festival Appreciation party on March 30th. The party, which was held at **Jeff Pulfer's** Party Central was thrown to show appreciation for those who helped at the beer fest. The festivity went on normally until Mr. Pulfer's sister Doris had discovered a deceased deer in a nearby gully. **Dennis Owens**, a local director for the volunteer organization, proceeded to saw off the antlers from the decaying carcass. "I am completely shocked and appalled", stated Jaycee member **Joe Burkitt**, "I wasn't here for the beginning of the party. How do I know that they didn't kill this thing themselves?"

"I've seen some strange Pagan stuff in my day", stated **Rustin A. Greene**, the Jaycees foremost authority on Pagan activity, "but this has to be the most Pagan, most liberal, sickest ritual I've seen yet!" Mr. Greene went on to testify that "when you get to be my age, you start getting married, start having kids, you're trying to fix electrical problems in your house, you're remodeling the bedroom; you just don't have time for all that!"

The ritual closed with the group huddled into a circle around the carcass. "Yea!", was heard from the group as the antlers were completely sawed off, in which the deer rack was raised up so everyone could see. After a thorough cleaning, the 6 point deer rack was presented to Mr. Pulfer's sister since she was the one who discovered the dead animal. The party then continued as if nothing ever happened.

It's A Little Known Fact... Daylight Savings Time

The idea of setting clocks ahead to have more daytime during the waking hours was first suggested in a whimsical essay by Benjamin Franklin in 1784. In 1907 in England William Willett campaigned for setting clocks ahead by 80 minutes in four moves of 20 minutes each during the spring and summer. A less radical suggestion, to advance clocks by an hour for spring and summer, was rejected the next year.

Summer DST was first adopted during World War I in such countries as the United States, Germany, and Great Britain. The same policy was followed during World War II. A variation, "double summer time," was used in England, with clocks advanced two hours in summer and one hour in winter.

The Uniform Time Act of 1966, which called for six months of DST, took effect in most of the United States in 1967. Year-round DST was tried in 1973 but quickly lost public support. In 1986 DST was set to begin on the first Sunday in April and end on the last Sunday in October.

The Jaycee Creed:

We Believe:

**That Faith In God Gives Meaning And Purpose To Human Life;
That The Brotherhood Of Man Transcends The Sovereignty Of Nations;
That Economic Justice Can Best Be Won By Free Men Through Free Enterprise;
That Governments Should Be Of Laws Rather Than Of Men;
That Earth's Great Treasure Lies In Human Personality;
And That Service To Humanity Is The Best Work Of Life.**

Peoria Jaycees



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Building Fund Update; Friday Fest; Firecracker 5000 & Much, Much More!**