

Coconut Telegraph

February 2009
Volume 27 Issue #27

Prestige Publishing, Inc
101425 Overseas Highway
PMB #628
Key Largo, FL 33037

Phone 305-304-2837

Deadline

for the
Coconut Telegraph's
March issue is
Friday
February 20, 2009

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Articles

Entertainer of the Month, Pete Schinella.....	3
Letter to the Editor	4
Thank You Ladies of Moose Lodge	4
Metal Fest for Local Youth.....	5
Garden Walk is Back, February 27.....	6
Staying Afloat, Riding the Wave of Life.....	7
Restaurant of the Month, Pilot House	8
Artist of the Month, Stacie Krupa	9
Keys Sailors Do Well in Major Regatta.....	10
Bartender of the Month, Richard "Dicko" Cooper	11
Getting from Here to There- the map page.....	12
Getting Into a New Kind of Habit.....	14
Adopt an Animal Shelter Pet	15
Dear Anny Bannany	16
Conch Characters	17
Useless Facts You Should Know	19
A Decade of Magic in the Upper Keys.....	20
Boss Ralphie, story.....	20
Business in the Keys	21
Coco 'Nut' Funnies.....	23

Editorial: Everyone Wants A Benefit

"You should have a benefit for me!" is a phrase I heard often over the last month while working on The Benefit for Trina that was held at Sundowner's on January 18th. My standard reply is "Really? Why?" The answer, "Because I need the money". Yeah, well who doesn't in this day and age? There has to be some kind of criteria, so I would then ask them, "What have you done for the community?" That would stop them dead in their tracks.

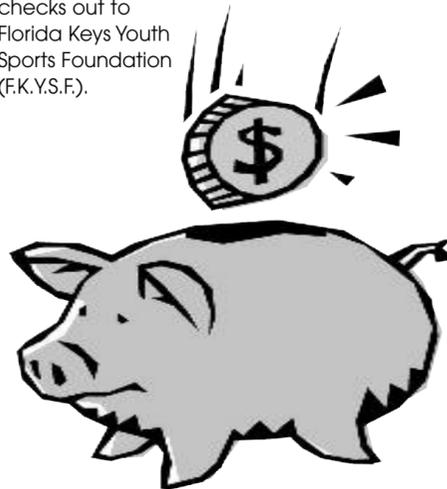
In the case with Trina Birnie who had been a non-paid volunteer foster parent over the years, founded the "Upper Keys Youth Association" as well as jumped in when anything else was needed, that wasn't the issue. When she had her heart attack we had to talk her into letting us do it. Givers aren't used to taking and takers aren't used to giving. Takers don't have the word "embarrassment" in their vocabulary and so they are not capable of experiencing it.

Speaking of givers, Chris Fleming is one of the biggest and was recently diagnosed with Acute Leukemia. Chris has been a long time volunteer fire fighter as well as President of the Fire Department and serves on the Board of Directors. He was in charge of the welding crew for the Spiegel Grove and served as Auctioneer and Master of Ceremonies on too many benefits and events to mention. As the owner of Davis Fire Equipment he has been one of the first to offer donations of his goods and services. Now it is time for us to help him. There will be more information in next months Coconut Telegraph but for now if you want to help contact the Red Cross and donate some blood in his name.

I can't tell you how many times people come up to me and tell me how much they love the Coconut Telegraph. That is much appreciated, however it is the advertisers that keep this thing going. If you want to

show your support go shopping or take a friend out to eat at any of the fine establishments in this issue.

If you are still interested in helping Trina Bernie contact Sundowner's 305-451-5566. Make checks out to Florida Keys Youth Sports Foundation (F.K.Y.S.F.).

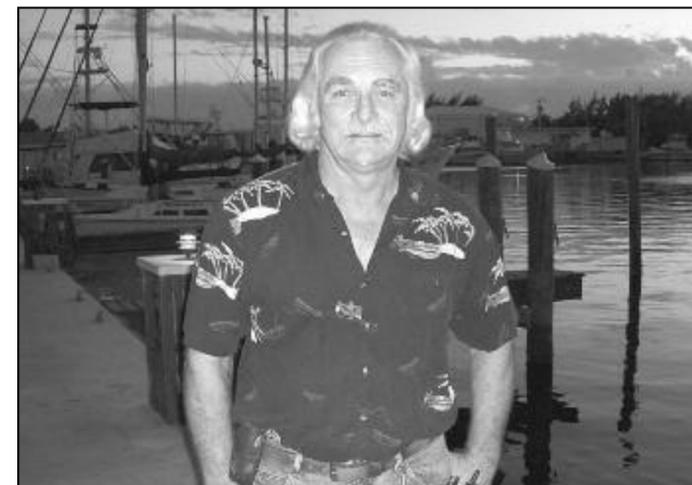


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Entertainer of the Month Pete Schinella "Holy Rock and Roller!"



Pete Schinella is a retired Baptist Minister and former missionary to Haiti, and until 15 years ago played only Christian music. After he lost his church due to Hurricane Andrew he began playing all different types of music. Several years ago Carol Rogers and Tyler Everett organized a benefit for him and his family when their 93-foot sailboat used to deliver supplies to Haiti burned and sunk. Pete, his ex-wife and five of his nine kids were homeless.

"Pete has always been a giver," says Carol Rogers. The Coconut Telegraph agrees. He stepped up to the plate and ran the show at the Benefit for Trina. His band, the Blues Lagoon consists of his number fourth son Ron on the drums,

Cadillac John playing sax and Irish whistle, Mr. Fabulous Steve Park playing lead guitar, Patrick Knox on lead guitar and vocal, and his brother-in-law Steve Dunlop plays percussion. At the Pilot House Tuesday night Pete whipped out a banjo when his guitar string broke to the delight of the crowd.

Blues Lagoon (see picture below) has played at the Pilot House, Paradise Pub, Hog Heaven, the OV and as many benefits as they can.

Carol Rogers says, "Pete's spirit is to give." After his divorce, he and Carol got together and will be married on April 18. Now that is a match made in heaven! For booking information call Pete at 305-731-3190.



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