

'Parrot Heads' flock to Dome on party night

By [Sharon Woods Harris](#)

Times staff writer

PEKIN - Neta Moon was a typical groupie Saturday evening as she tapped her toe to the "Trop-Rock" tunes made popular by Jimmy Buffet.

"I didn't know you were that big of a fan," said friend Marlene Lucy of Pekin, as she realized just how far Moon of North Pekin had gone to look the part of a "Parrot Head."

Moon wore a Jimmy Buffet shirt that read, "It's Five O'clock Somewhere," and a Key West bracelet. And, she made sure to have one Margarita in honor of the song, "Margaritaville," and a cheeseburger in honor of, "Cheeseburger in Paradise," two of Moon's favorite Buffet tunes.

"I just like Jimmy Buffet," said Moon. "So I bought two tickets.

"It just sounded like something really fun to do. I sure can't be at the beach right now. I think it's fun to look around and see people in their beach clothing and carrying beach ball."

Moon and Lucy came to the Dragon's Dome in Pekin Saturday to hear the Boat Drunks play Buffet music at Party at the Dome - a fund-raiser for Tazewell Animal Protective Society.

The organization raised between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for the operations of the no-kill shelter. An estimated 600 people attended.

Party at the Dome was the concept of animal rehabilitationist and TAPS board of directors member Susan Farrell. Farrell died in a car crash in Missouri on July 10.

TAPS supporter Alice

Cakora then took over and completed the plans for the event.

A moment of silence was held in Farrell's honor.

"I think we did very well," said Cakora.

Party-goers danced and drank margaritas, beer and sodas as the band played on.

Even little children were shaking their bottoms to the music.

Pekin resident Brenda Vogel said her reasons for attending the party were two-fold.

"For one thing, I wanted something different for the kids to do," said Vogel.

"I also wanted to support TAPS. I think it is very important to have a no-kill shelter to help take care of animals. We got my mother-in-law a dog there - she named him Elmo."



A couple dances to the Trop-rock sounds of The Boat Drunks, a Jimmy Buffet tribute band that performed during TAPS's Party at the Dome Saturday. Photo by Rick Wade / Times staff

Bob Grossman drove in from Springfield for the event. His daughter is a volunteer for TAPS and told him of the event.

"I've never been (to the dome) before," he said. "It's a really nice place.

"I heard the Boat Drunks play in Springfield before and they were a really good band. I've always liked Jimmy Buffet music.

"I think this is a wonderful thing. I've been a dog lover all my life. I have two dogs and a cat - one of which I adopted from a shelter in Springfield. We don't have a no-kill shelter down there."

Marjy Palmer of Pekin said she also wanted to support the shelter. Her stepson and her three grandchildren attended with her and husband John.

"They are having a ball," said Palmer. "It's just a great time. This is a wonderful benefit to raise some much needed money for a great cause."

Her husband, John, a board member of TAPS, said he would like to see the event repeat every year.

Neta Moon said she plans to volunteer at TAPS.

"I think it is wonderful that these animals don't have to be put to sleep," she said. "I think it is a very worthwhile cause."

TAPS currently houses 100 cats and 40 to 50 dogs, said TAPS shelter manager Sue Taffar.

She said Sue Farrell had been care for a very young, homeless kitten - named Bob, because he was born with a stub of a tail - when she died. Bob was adopted by a local family about three weeks ago.

TAPS will move into its new facility by the end of this month, board president Henry Cakora said. He said the animals will be moved into the shelter after other things have been transferred there - probably a few weeks later.

TAPS officials are still seeking donations to pay for the shelter. As of this week, area residents have donated \$390,000. The old facility is on the market through Jim Maloof Realty, he said. The building is valued at \$150,000, which also will help pay for the new shelter.

People wishing to donate \$500 or more can still get their names included on the Wall of Honor at the new shelter, provided donations are received by Tuesday.

To donate call Alice Cakora at 347-2347.