

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 1

*the*  
**BRUSHY MOUNTAIN BOOGIE**

IN NORTH WILKESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA



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*A Season of Caring and Giving!*

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods -- merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes, there is! This is GREAT "people power" advice as shared by Doris Bowen ..great thoughts for Holiday gift giving...really something to think about....

It's time to think outside the box, people! Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper? Everyone -- yes, EVERYONE gets his or her hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber? Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages for those that are thinking about some health improvement. Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates. Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down the Benjamin's on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open. How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy? Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day. My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running. OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes. Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre? Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. THIS is the new American Christmas tradition.

This is a revolution of caring about each other. Isn't that what Christmas is all about?

*Pat Hicks*



*Guess who says, 'Don't eat yellow snow' and who prefers to, 'Teach a Man to Fish'?*



*Did you know that Brenda is a cancer survivor and that Phil secretly wants to dance as smoothly as Hicks?*

Did you know that vivacious Brenda Tomlinson was born in Baltimore, Maryland and attended Lander University? Good looking hubby Phil, however, was born considerably further south in Langdale, Alabama and went to Auburn! Love sparks flew when this North and South couple collided! Over the last 13 years, the Tomlinson's have split their time living between their Hickory home and their mountain cabin in McGrady! They met about 16 years ago while Phil attended a church Singles Again class...and rumor has it that Brenda was his Sunday School teacher! The Tomlinson's dated about three years before tying the knot. Brenda said, "I knew after the first cup of coffee together that Phil was the one for me." Having subject and verb agreement was a plus too! I was "single again" for nine years, so I was ready for the REAL deal."

In 1991, Brenda opened a staffing company in Spartanburg SC and since then has opened five other locations. In 2001, the couple started a very successful mobile drug testing business that has taken wings of its own! They never dreamed that collecting pee in a cup (Brenda's words), certifying collectors, breath alcohol and background checks, health and wellness assessments, flu shot clinics and DNA tests could keep them as busy as they are! With Brenda speaking at various conferences, such as Human Resource municipalities and Occupational Nurse and Safety Groups, and sometimes being called upon by the courts as an expert witness .....not to mention having three business locations.....there's just no opportunity for Phil and Brenda to have time for boredom!

Brenda and Phil have an adult married daughter Heather who Phil adopted just a few years ago. This speaks volumes of Phil's character and integrity. How cool is that? Phil also has a son Justin, 25, from a previous marriage. Justin makes his home in Charleston. Two adorable grandchildren help complete their lives. Grant, 6, was born on Nan Brenda's birthday. Cutie Bailee is 3. Some of Brenda and Phil's favorite times are when the grandkids have sleepovers! We can't leave out their four-legged family members, Aubie, a Golden Retriever, and Riley their 6 month old Maltese!

In 2010, Phil presented Brenda with the most romantic and selfless birthday gift ever...SHAG lessons! Alas, they began their lessons in Wilkesboro and were hooked early on! We are fortunate to have them as members of BMSC! Phil's favorite song is, "Stand Up In It" by Theodis Ealey. Brenda, on the other hand, prefers the slow ones! The Tomlinson's have been generous donors and supporters to the BMSC charities!

In their spare time, although I'm not certain how there can be spare time, Phil enjoys golfing, fishing and being on his tractor. Brenda finds great relaxation in the kitchen baking! BMSC are willing taste testers!

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# Celebrate the birth....



## BIRTHDAYS



### DECEMBER

Faye Ayers  
Linda Bartok  
Margaret Butler  
Arlene Coley  
Pat Harding  
Andy Massengill  
JoAnn Payne  
Cindy Pearson  
Cindy Smith  
Mary Sallie Styers  
Rick Styers  
Suzie Thomasson

### JANUARY

George Brown  
Cindy Caudle  
Phillip Church  
Doug Jones  
Mike Mizerak  
Kim Newman  
Janet Shanahan  
Donna Solana



### In Sympathy & Love

- In the death of Patricia Parks father and Kathy Bunnells sister

### Comfort Thoughts

- Becky Doran's Mom, Margaret; Robert Bentley's grandson, Mason; Johnny Worley's sister, Helen.

## The Winter Solstice

*"Winter inspires both joy and woe. Some people can't wait for the cooler weather, snow, skiing and ice skating, curling up by a fire, and the holiday spirit. Other people dislike the frigid temperatures, blizzards, and wild weather."*

*-From the 2011 Farmer's Almanac*

This year's winter solstice occurs on December 22 at approximately 12:30 am. This is the day with the least amount of daylight and the greatest amount of darkness. In other words, it is the shortest day of the year.

It also marks the first day of winter - a time when plants and other living things outside show few signs of life. The birds of spring and summer have abandoned us and sought out warmer climates further south. The long cold winters seem unbearable to many of us at times. Seems like a long, long time until we see the plants and flowers once again spring from the ground and the trees begin to show signs of greenery and renewed life.

But the winter solstice also marks a time when the days begin once again to get a little longer each day. Even though the hardest days of winter are still ahead there are signs of hope.

Over 2000 years ago God provided us with the greatest of all possible gifts. He sent his only Son to show us the way to appreciate His love through the gift of His teachings and by His divine example. The message of God through the gift of His Son is the message of hope.

Each year, shortly after the winter solstice, we celebrate the birth of Christ. We gather together with our friends and families to celebrate His birth and fellowship with each other. We share gifts with each other symbolizing the wonderful gift we received from God – a gift we can never match.

Christmas is a time of faith. Just as God promises us that spring will follow winter, he also promises that the birth of His Son will renew our hearts and free our souls. All we need is faith in His love, just as we have faith in the coming of spring.

As we begin our celebrations of this magical season, we need to remember the true meaning of Christmas. We have received no greater gift than the Son of God. Faith in His love promises us renewed lives as surely as the onset of winter promises the renewal of life in the spring.

Brushy Mountain Shag Club wishes each and every member and guest a joyous and Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year. Thank you for a wonderful year. --A BMSC Angel



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - THROUGH DECEMBER 2011

Saturday, December 3	BMSC Christmas Party	Elks Lodge N. Wilkesboro	5:30 - 11:00	DJ Steve Coley
Friday, December 9	Statesville Christmas Party	Statesville VFW Post 2031	8:00 - 11:30	DJ Gene Hensley
Saturday, Dec 17	Sandy Beach Christmas	Morganton Elks Lodge	7:30 - 11:30	DJ Johnny B
Saturday, Dec 31	BMSC New Years Eve	Elks Lodge N. Wilkesboro	8:00 - 1:00	DJ Gene Hensley

### Brushy Mountain Shag Club New Years Eve Party

Saturday, December 31  
Elks Lodge, N. Wilkesboro  
8:00 pm - 1:00am

Dance to the tunes by  
DJ Genuine Gene Hensley

Heavy Hors d'ouvres

Champagne Toast at Midnight followed  
by Full Buffet Breakfast

RSVP to [patycake@wilkes.net](mailto:patycake@wilkes.net) the  
number planning to attend

A very special thanks to Tim Hauser for heading up a very successful Silent Auction. From the generosity of club members either soliciting donations, providing their own donations, or sharing their time and their checkbooks, BMSC raised our total charitable donations to \$7500! Some of the charities include: Samaritan's Kitchen, Hospice of Wilkes, BROCC and the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation!



Don't Forget to Support Brushy Mountain Shag  
Membership - \$15 - SOS Cards Available for \$30 (see Pat Hicks)  
Door Prizes Available - Support Area Shag Clubs - Bring those Yummy Desserts