

# Red Suit Gazette

Unlock the World of Santa

The Brotherhood of the Direct Descendents of Santa

Volume 2, Issue 2 June/July 2009



## What do you see in the eyes of a child?

by Lou Knezevich

**DO YOU SEE HOPE,** excitement, pure adoration, bewilderment, trust, or maybe fear? Or do you merely look and not see the child within looking back?

by Lou Knezevich

What do you see in the eyes of a child?

Is it hope, excitement, pure adoration, bewilderment, trust, or maybe fear?

As enactors of Santa Claus we have an awesome responsibility to faithfully portray the image in the mind of the public, especially children. The public has been educated to recognize our look through photos, movies and advertising. Santa Claus is the most recognized figure in the world so we have



PHOTO BY BILL MCKEE

**A child is illuminated by the glow from the just-lit lights of a community Christmas tree.**

some very large and tall boots to fill.

The Five Second Rule

You have about five seconds to be accepted as Santa Claus whenever some-

one sees you for the first time.

Those eyes searching you are going to make up their minds quickly if you are Santa, one of the myriad of helpers, or an impostor. If you are observant you will be able to know from the audience reaction if you have made a believable impression or if you're just being accepted.

Whenever you enter a room, a house party or walk in any public place, make sure each and every one of those five seconds count.

First, dress the part

If your going to perform as Santa then dress as Santa. The public expects to see Santa Claus so doesn't it make sense to wear the traditional red coat trimmed in white fur, leggings, boots with white fur trim and a hat with a white fur pom pom. Always wear what

See EYES pg. 2

### In This Issue

- 1- What Do You See?  
by Lou Knezevich  
Christmas Magic in Gatlinburg  
by Bill McKee
- 3 - A Very Merry Wedding  
by Bill McKee
- 4 - Celebrate Santa 2009  
Photos by  
Bill & Patsy McKee
- 8 - In Class and On the Road  
Santa Al Horton
- 10- Santa-America
- 11 - The Price of Children
- 12 - Notes & Items of Interest
- 14 - "Merry Old Santa Claus"  
by Thomas Nast
- 15 - Classified/Posts

## Stories of Christmas Magic in Gatlinburg

By Bill McKee  
Bristol Herald Courier

GATLINBURG, Tenn. - Several gentlemen who don the red suit in the Tri-Cities, Tenn.-Va., region traveled to Gatlinburg for Celebrate Santa 2009. Included are Dunk Duncan (known by many as Pappy the Clown) who is a relatively newcomer to being Santa's helper. Vic Jones and his wife, June, from Norton Virginia, were there along with Alan

Burns from Blountville, Tenn., (another recent addition to Santa's list of helpers), and Harold McClure from Kingsport, Tenn. Jerry Rector, a gentleman familiar to many in the Tri-Cities region, could not attend the gathering due to a prior commitment.

Vic Jones, who is still very active at the age of 86, may have been the eldest Santa in attendance in Gatlinburg.

See MAGIC pg.9

EYES cont. from pg. 1

the public expects to see unless you have been requested or cleared with your host to wear a specialty costume.

Be ready

Every entrance or public meeting is different and you must be prepared to bend and move with the flow of events. Just relax so you can be yourself and react to your audience in a natural manner. This applies to mall Santa's as well as those at special events such as parades, tree lighting's, etc.

Be animated

As Santa you need to have a twinkle in your eye, which is really a wide grin. Learn and practice to over emphasize body motions such as a sweeping gesture to shake a hand or pat a child on the head. Use facial expressions to react to comments by the audience or children's questions. Practice in front of a mirror until you perfect the actions you want to achieve.

Be a star

As Santa you are the star of the show so act the part. Move with authority, tease or joke without offending, while showing love and compassion with gentleness. It is always a good strategy to greet a crowd with a gentle "Ho ho ho" and save the loud one for your exit.

Be entertaining

Maybe you can't do magic or sing songs well, but find some-

thing you can do to be entertaining. Everyone can tell stories, even you. Practice telling a story until you incorporate the right emphasis or expressions to make



PHOTO BY BILL MCKEE

Santa Lou Knezevich in the Holly & Shamrock Parade, Gatlinburg, Tenn., March 2009.

the story entertaining. You have a lot of time in the off season to develop your skills so practice, practice, practice.

Treat children like adults

Don't talk down too or humiliate any child. Talk to them as you would an adult and ask meaningful questions. Try to remember your first experiences talking to Santa. I'm sure like all of us you had some fear but you didn't want to forget anything. Above all you wanted Santa to know you deserved your requests because you had been good. Make these few minutes and fleeting moments magical for each and every child.

Learn to listen

When a child is on your knee make him or her feel like they are the most important child in the world. Listen attentively. I must confess I don't understand a lot of what children ask me but I nod my head in agreement. I might even add; "Oh, that's a very good choice!," or I might ask, "Is there anything else you want for Christmas?" When I'm ending the visit I always say; "Santa can't promise to bring everything on your list but I will promise to do as much as I can."

Look in the child's eyes

By looking into a child's eyes you are showing them how sincere you are and how important they are. There are

some health risks associated with this practice. Santa Dave Bartlett of N.Y. presents a humorous sketch about this very thing. If you ever have a chance to see Dave Bartlett present his one man show entitled "Santa Class 101," please do not miss it. I attended his seminar at 'Celebrate Santa 2009' and I felt it was one of the best sessions I have ever attended.

Dave has a monologue about not looking at children face to face because they can spread their germs to you and how some kids also really have bad halitosis. I nearly broke down in tears laughing because I can relate so well to what he says.

One of my first jobs each November is a photo shoot at a prominent country club. I have more than a few face to face encounters and within a few days I'm at my doctor's office with a case of the "Crud" begging for his miracle shot in the butt. It happens every year even though I get a flu shot and start to turn orange from all the Vitamin C I take.

Just be aware that when you have so many kids in your face you are going to get sick.

The other humorous antidote from Dave concerned kids with Halitosis. I've been around a few kids that made me feel I was turning green. Be prepared for it but by all means do not stop looking into the child's eyes. That child is going to have a memory created by Santa looking into their eyes and giving them his undivided attention.

In future articles I will cover more items on how to make that very important first impression and idea's to make you the Santa everyone asks for.

Time passes quickly so start thinking about the upcoming season and all the things you want to do. Do it now.

by Lou Knezevich

"Zivili" Celebrate Life"

Santa Lou

Santalou@bellsouth.net

<http://www.Santa-Lou.com>



# A Very Merry Wedding

*R.R. 'Dunk' Duncan,  
Geri Chauncey*



**ENGAGED DURING  
THE GALA BALL AT  
CELEBRATE SANTA  
2009, DUNK AND  
GERI WERE WED,  
1 MAY, 2009**



**PHOTOS BY BILL MCKEE**



In the top left photo, Pastor Larry E. Dotson administers wedding vows as Mrs. Claus, Geri Chauncey, places the wedding band on the finger of Santa's helper, R.R. 'Dunk' Duncan Sr., from Rosedale, Va. Top right, moments after Dunk got down on his knees following his removing the 'three carrot dime-n-ring' from the bag, Geri appears very happy. Bottom left, Dunk and Geri arrive at Black Wolf Harley Davidson for the wedding ceremony. Center, Joe Moore and Dunk check out each others beard. Bottom right, Joe Moore looks on as Dunk pulls items from the 'pig in a poke' he just 'won' in the bidding war. Geri can be seen, bottom right, and watching patiently and somewhat curious, perhaps.

It would be a Santa gathering and weekend that Geri Chauncey would never forget. R.R. 'Dunk' Duncan, a new Santa, made sure of that.

Dunk decided it was time to share his life with a partner. He dreamed up a proposal which he planned to execute during the Gala Ball at Celebrate Santa 2009. In concert with Joe Moore, Dunk devised a plan in which he would 'donate' a bag which contained a 'pig in a poke' to bid on. He and Joe

would start a bidding war, driving up the price of the item to heighten the effect.

Inside the bag Dunk had placed a 'shoe horn' (kazoo horn in the rear of a baby shoe), the Kingsley Report on 'What men know about women,' and a ring with three carrots and one dime (a three carrot dime-n-ring).

As the bidding began and progressed, Geri became concerned that Dunk was bidding way too much on such a frivolous item as a 'pig in a

poke.' (For those not familiar with the phrase, buying a pig in a poke is like buying a bag full of air, or similar.)

When the bids reached frivolous levels, Geri even attempted to get Dunk to stop this foolishness. Of course he ignored her and continued on, winning the item.

As he removed each item from the bag Geri just sat and stared. And then as he described the three carrot dime-n-ring, and got down on his knee in front of Geri's

chair, realization dawned across her face.

She was stunned. And appeared to be extremely happy.

Their wedding was held on May 1, in front of Black Wolf Harley Davidson in Bristol, Va. They rode in on Dunk's 2006 Harley-Davidson Ultra-Classie, Dunk in full Santa attire and the near-future Mrs. Claus rode side-saddle on the rear.

It was a very merry wedding indeed.

# A look back at Celebrate Santa 2009

March 16-18, 2009, approximately 600 Santas, Mrs. Claus, Elves and all manner of holiday characters gathered in Gatlinburg, Tenn., for Celebrate Santa 2009. The following pages offer a glimpse into the three-day extravaganza.



To view a larger collection of images by Bill and Patsy McKee from Celebrate Santa 2009, please visit: <http://www.theSantaClaus.com/CelebrateSanta2009/CS2009Gallery/index.html>



**PHOTOS BY  
BILL AND  
PATSY MCKEE**

©2009 Earthdancer Imaging



# Santa

## EVERYWHERE

Gatlinburg was alive with the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas. Everywhere, inside the convention center and on the streets and in the shops, there were Santas everywhere.





# Holly & Shamrock Parade

Gatlinburg, Tenn., March 17, 2009



More images can be found online at:  
<http://www.theSantaClaus.com/CelebrateSanta2009/CS2009Gallery/index.htm>



# Cyber Sleigh Ride

Santa's Cyber Sleigh entertained the crowd at Celebrate Santa 2009, with music, jet engine and turns for the spectators to enjoy.

One of the special passengers was Bernadette Dimitrov, aka Mrs. Claus, who traveled all the way from Melbourne, Australia. Bernadette can be seen riding in the front, right seat.





## On the road with Santa Al Horton

Kris Kringle, aka, Santa Al Horton, a regular contributor, recently departed Atlanta, and finds himself in Pah-rump, NV. His words of wisdom and stories to delight the ear, will continue to appear on these pages.

The words of wisdom below were written as a class project in Al Horton's recent Santa Claus Academy class held in Atlanta, Ga., April, 2009. Part of the assignment by Al, challenged each Santa in the class to try and get the completed writing published. The completed project below was a collaborative effort by each student in attendance. In addition to Al, Mike White, SantaSomervillemike, emailed me a copy to make sure it would get published. Look for an article by Mike in the next issue, along with photos, of his new sleigh, a 1929 Ford Model A, beautifully painted and detailed for SantaSomervillemike.

### YOU MAY BE A SANTA CLAUS IF ...



For some, the Christmas season is not over on December 26th. Test yourself. Answer the following questions to see if you may be a Santa Claus.

Do you harbor feelings of "gift-giving" way beyond January 1st? Do you think it's hard to take down your Christmas decorations in say ... February?

If you have a white beard and sport a 40-inch waistline, you might be a Santa Claus.

If your wardrobe is mostly red, you might be a Santa Claus.

If everyone hears bells when you're around, you might be a Santa Claus.

If you can recite the names of all Santa's reindeer, you might be a Santa Claus.

You might be a Santa Claus if at a party you search out the cookies.

You might be a Santa Claus if children follow your every move.

You might be a Santa Claus if your laugh sounds like 'HO, HO, HO!'

You might be a Santa Claus if you still play with toy trains.

If you have so many lights on your Christmas tree that you have to turn off the lights in the rest of the house before turning on the lights to avoid blowing an electrical circuit, you might be a Santa Claus.

If you have to turn on the air conditioner because of the heat generated by the Christmas tree light, you might be a Santa Claus.

If guests to your home have to wear sunglasses when approaching your house at night, you might be a Santa Claus.

Do you start decorating for Christmas in August? You might be a Santa Claus.

Do you smell like peppermint? You might be a Santa Claus.

If one of your favorite views is the south-end of a north-bound reindeer, you might be a Santa Claus.

If you answered yes to any of these questions, look in the mirror, you might be a Santa Claus!

If you laughed, smiled, giggled, or agreed to any of the above, you qualify to bring joy and happiness to children of all ages throughout the year!

Give up the ghost and accept, you might be a Santa Claus.

If you have these feelings, GIVE IN! Join the ranks of the jolly! Become Santa today. Keep a smile on your face and a twinkle in your eye.



## MAGIC

cont. from pg. 1

Vic recently received a letter from a teacher who still remembers and cherishes his Santa visits from when she was just a 5-year-old little girl. In a recent letter to him, celebrating his trip to Gatlinburg, she wrote; "I remember your jingle bells and 'Ho, Ho, Ho,' as you came up our stairs. I got a blonde doll but I always coveted my sister's pink, tutu-bedecked ballerina. I remember sitting on your lap and being shy."

As I listened to Vic tell his stories and the untold thousands upon thousands of children he has made glad, tears welled up in his eyes as he talked about the gift of being Santa, which was given to him to share with others.

And he told me about the year Norton almost didn't have a Christmas Parade.

It seems a little boy, about 6-years-old, came running into a downtown Norton business Jones was managing at the time. "'Mister!, Mister!, Mister!,' I heard," said Jones. "I went out of the office area and there was a small boy, about 6, and I asked him what was the matter."

Jones went on, "He said, 'Mister, there is no Christmas parade this year! I won't get to see Santa,' he sobbed. I asked him who told him that, and with tears streaming down his face, he said a man down the street. I told him not to leave and I made a phone call to confirm his distressing story."

Jones went on to say that he called Carol Tate at the Coalfield Progress. It was about 10 days before Christmas and Tate said no one had organized a parade, so there would



PHOTO BY BILL MCKEE

#### Santa Vic Jones at Celebrate Santa 2009.

be no Santa Claus parade that year.

"I looked back at the face of this sad little boy and I said, Yes, there will be a parade this year!"

Three days later, according to Jones, Norton had a Christmas Parade (organized by Jones), complete with fire trucks, a truck carrying candy for the children and other assorted vehicles Jones had managed to pull together.

"I put this little boy on the fire truck right beside Santa," said Jones. "He really got to see Santa Claus that year."

Jones said the little boy, Henry Yeary Jr., died just six

months later from a sudden illness. "I never dreamed this would be his last Christmas," said Jones. "This was the beginning for me to be Norton's parade organizer for more than 25 years." Every year I dedicated the parade to the memory of little Henry Yeary Jr.," he said. Jones went on to say, "I will always remember this little boy at Christmas."

Alan Burns was in Memphis, Tenn., Christmas 2008, visiting with children who made their way to the Oak Court mall for his first year in the red suit. He came to Gatlinburg to continue his Santa education and gain

more knowledge to help him in his portrayal of the jolly old gentleman.

Jerry Rector, in a phone interview, talked about his years as Santa. Jerry has appeared in the Bristol Christmas Parade for 14 years and the Johnson City Christmas Parade for 7.

Rector talked about how children are the most important thing for Santa. He spoke of some of his favorite stops, including visiting nursing homes and schools, where he has participated in and supports Relay for Life.

One of his stops this year included driving to Grundy, Va., a nearly two hour drive, where he visited with the children at Mountain Mission School. "That is one I definitely want to make again next year," he said. "I am looking forward to making that trip again. It was very touching to see how those in charge at the school cared for each and every one of those children. It warmed my heart and reminded me again, the true meaning of Christmas," he said.

"I knew I was a true Santa when I began to feel it in my heart," Rector went on to say. "I knew God had given me a gift and the most important thing I could do with it was to share it with others," he said. "I can only give it back and I am so grateful to be able to do so." Rector ended by saying, "I will keep wearing the red suit as long as I possibly can."

Bill McKee  
Santa@theSantaClaus.com  
<http://www.theSantaClaus.com>





For nine months, the nine-year-old Hurricane Katrina survivor did not speak. He and his mother rode out the killer storm in the attic of their home. His next-door neighbors were not so lucky and the young boy heard their screams as Katrina took the lives of his best friend and his friend's mother. When the mother and son moved to Mobile, they sought help for the boy's post traumatic stress. Week after week, month after month, the boy was silent during therapy sessions. A professional in the medical community called Santa-America for help. When Santa Ernest walked into the counselor's office, the young boy jumped up, flew across the room and hurled himself into Santa Ernest's embrace shouting, "Santa, I thought you were dead." The boy's mother and counselor wept as the boy told Santa Ernest about his nightmare experiences.



### **Santa-America Changes Families' Lives!**

Founded in 2003 by Daphne resident, Ernest Berger, Santa-America is a national non-profit volunteer service organization that offers Santa visits to children and families in crisis...365 days a year! Santa nurtures children and their families by giving compassion during an emotionally stressful time of their life. Following the initial visit, the same Santa will continue to visit the family year after year, helping in their grief and bereavement. Santa's visits with children come from the medical community, hospice, and special needs educators. We build relationships with medical societies and alliances. As one of our initiatives, Santa America is conducting a clinical pilot study to reveal the value of Santa's love on chronically ill children.



### **Caring For Our Children**

Santa-America is the leader in advancing the highest standards for its volunteers. We conduct rigorous national background checks and intensive training ... the same background check as a doctor or nurse.

**Love, Hope & Joy**  
 Wrapped in a Warm Santa Hug  
 for Special Children & Their Families  
**365 Days A Year!**

### **How We Build Community**



Santa-America volunteers unite generations and work together to build community through service to our children. The gifts

of Love, Hope & Joy transcend politics, culture, race and religion. These gifts are treasured universal values.

### **Gifts for Our Children**

When we visit our special children, Santa-America gives gifts that symbolize Love, Hope and Joy. Our signature Santa Hugs™, sleigh bells, and our special book, *An Angel in the Sky*, continue to remind children and their families of their special visit with Santa.



For more information about Santa-America, visit Santa-America online at: [www.Santa-America.org](http://www.Santa-America.org) or contact our Executive Director, Santa John Scheuch, at [SantaJohn@Santa-America.org](mailto:SantaJohn@Santa-America.org) Don't miss the newsletter, *Weeble Words*, which can be found at: <http://www.santa-america.org/newsletters.htm>

Photos courtesy of Elizabeth McGonagle Graham, Lasting Memories Photography.

# THE PRICE OF CHILDREN



Author unknown

The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with \$160,140 for a middle-income family. Talk about sticker shock! That doesn't even touch college tuition.

But \$160,140 isn't so bad if you break it down. It translates into:

- \* \$8,896.66 a year,
- \* \$741.38 a month, or
- \* \$171.08 a week.
- \* That's a mere \$24.24 a day!
- \* Just over a dollar an hour.

Still, you might think the best financial advice is don't have children if you want to be "rich." Actually, it is just the opposite. What do you get for your \$160,140?

- \* Naming rights. First, middle, and last!
- \* Glimpses of God every day.
- \* Giggles under the covers every night.
- \* More love than your heart can hold.
- \* Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs.
- \* Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and warm cookies.
- \* A hand to hold which is usually covered with jelly or chocolate.
- \* A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites.
- \* Someone to laugh yourself silly with, no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.

For \$160,140, you never have to grow up. You get to:

- \* finger-paint,
- \* carve pumpkins,
- \* play hide-and-seek,
- \* catch lightning bugs, and
- \* never stop believing in Santa Claus.

You have an excuse to:

- \* keep reading the Adventures of Piglet and Pooh,
- \* watching Saturday morning cartoons,
- \* going to Disney movies, and
- \* wishing on stars.
- \* You get to frame rainbows, hearts, and flowers under refrigerator magnets and collect spray painted noodle wreaths for Christmas, hand prints set in clay for Mother's Day, and cards with backward letters for Father's Day.

For \$160,140, there is no greater bang for your buck.

You get to be a hero just for:

- \* retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof,
- \* taking the training wheels off a bike,
- \* removing a splinter,
- \* filling a wading pool,
- \* coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs, and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless.

You get a front row seat to history to witness the:

- \* first step,
- \* first word,
- \* first bra,
- \* first date, and
- \* first time behind the wheel.

You get to be immortal. You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren and great grandchildren. You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications, and human sexuality that no college can match. In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there under God. You have all the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever, and love them without limits; so one day they will like you, love without counting the cost. That is quite a deal for the price!

Love & enjoy your children & grandchildren!

# Notes, Questions & Items of Interest

## Santa-America.org

Santa Ernest Berger, President of Santa America has announced the appointment of Santa John Scheuch of Prairie Village, Kansas as its new national Executive Director effective March 1. He replaces Cathy S. Barnette who joins the Santa America National Advisory Board.



“Santa John” is a founding member of Santa America, the largest Santa non-profit service organization of its type in the USA with over 300 volunteers visiting special needs children and their families in 44 states and 6 foreign countries. “Santa John Scheuch brings a wealth of corporate marketing and sales experience to the Santa America mission combined with over 30 years of Santa experience with special needs children. He crafted the 2009 national alliance between Santa America and the Autism Society of America to bring individual Santa visits to children with autism.”

Santa John is a graduate of Baker University with a degree in management and has completed additional studies in applied sociology. He has taught at numerous marketing seminars and conferences. He and his wife Helen, who will be Program Director for Santa America, have been married for 34 years and have two children. Both John and Helen are active in their church and numerous community service activities.

For more information, please visit the Santa America website at: [Santa-America.org](http://Santa-America.org).

## Santa Tags

Do any of our readers know who has either a Tennessee or Kentucky license plate with the words ‘Ho Ho Ho?’ A lady at Celebrate Santa 2009 gave Lou Knezevich a note requesting information on the owner/Santa. If anyone has, or knows who has this plate please contact Lou at; [Santa-lou@bellsouth.net](mailto:Santa-lou@bellsouth.net).



## In Memorial



Victor Nevada

We would like to acknowledge and give tribute to the passing of Victor Nevada, Canada’s Top Santa.

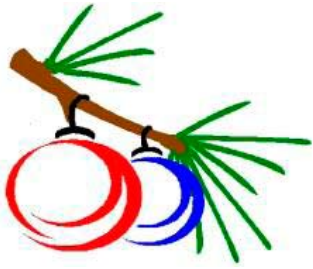
Victor Nevada, who went by the stage name, Santa Victor, had portrayed Santa Claus since 1985. Santa Victor has made appearances on national and international TV and radio programs, and has been featured in newspapers throughout the world. He has portrayed Santa Claus in Canada, the USA, Mexico, and Hong Kong.

Santa Victor also was the Headmaster of Santa School in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Victor, a trained educator from the University of Saskatchewan, conducted seminars for over 20 years throughout North America.

On a personal note, both of my brass Santa belt buckles came from Victor. They are the ultimate in simple elegance.

- Bill McKee, editor

# Notes, Questions & Items of Interest cont.



## LONG LEAF PINE SANTAS

The Long Leaf Pine Santa Group is proud to announce the 2nd Annual Santa's Business Roundtable

Join us on July 31, August 1 and 2, 2009 for a social event with an educational twist. Santa's Business Roundtable is a working business meeting and was very well received by participants last year.

Santa and Mrs. Claus Reception

The Courtyard by Marriott, 1000 Mall Loop Rd. (Oak Hollow Mall), High Point, NC

Friday, July 31, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Join Santas and Mrs. Claus for Cookies and Milk along with fellowship and conversation. Bring the kids and elves too!

Dinner at Golden Corral, Golden Corral, Mall Loop Rd (Oak Hollow Mall), High Point, N.C., Friday, July 31, 7:30 - until.

Santa's Business Roundtable, Castle McCulloch, Jamestown, N.C., Saturday, August 1, 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Registration includes a Boxed Lunch as we will have a working lunch.

Santa's Royal Feast, Castle McCulloch, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Join us for a catered dinner fit for a King, or a Santa! And what better place to have a Royal Feast than Christmas Castle?

Breakfast with Santa, Golden Corral, Mall Loop Rd. (Oak Hollow Mall), High Point, N.C., Sunday, August 2, 7:00 am until Noon.

For more information contact

Santa Jac [Santa@SantaJac.com](mailto:Santa@SantaJac.com) (or)

Santa Cliff [csnider@northstate.net](mailto:csnider@northstate.net)

### Special Announcement from Santa Jac Grimes

I am very pleased to announce that Santa Danny Nease has made it possible for the Traveling Santa Oath to be at our gathering. If you did not attend Celebrate Santa, this will be your only North Carolina opportunity to take and sign the Santa Oath. If you did sign the Oath in Gatlinburg join us to renew your commitment to the Oath. Thank you Santa Danny!



## PALM TREE SANTAS

All Aboard! Be sure and read all the way!

Your 2nd Annual St. Augustine Santa Capers is ready for you! and 4th annual Palm Tree Santas Spring Event!

We have a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Historic, 1542 Ponce De Leon Blvd. for Friday May 29th and Saturday May 30th. They have given us a deep discount from their AAA rate of \$135.00 per night to a very low \$89.00 per night. Plus, they are giving us 2 full course (30 items) Continental Breakfast tickets with a \$9.95 value each. They have also agreed to allow us use of their Flagler Room for meetings, etc., at no extra charge!

Please call 1-800-569-8008 for your reservations, ask for a room from the Palm Tree Santa's room block.

Dinner on Friday night has been tentatively set at Century Buffet for 7:00 pm.

Dinner on Saturday night has been set up at Schooners Seafood Restaurant at 7:30 pm. We will be ordering off their regular menu! No inflated prices!

All Aboard! The Red Train has been scheduled to pick us up at the Holiday Inn at 11:00 Saturday morning for a tour (or two maybe) around Historic St. Augustine. We will spend the afternoon in the Historic district, lunch at any one of a couple dozen quaint cafes, strolling, shopping, browsing and having our pictures taken!!!

PLUS LOTS MORE:

Contact

Santa Bob

toyshoppe: 727-491-0533

sleigh: 813-230-9254



“Merry Old Santa Claus,” by Thomas Nast. From *Harper’s Weekly*, Jan 1, 1881.

*“In putting on this suit and entering the sleigh, the wearer waives any and all rights to previous identity, real or implied, and fully accepts the duties and responsibilities of Santa Claus until such time that wearer becomes unable to do so either by accident or design.”*

The “Santa Clause” from the movie *The Santa Clause*



# Polar Express Style Bells & more

These sand cast, solid Brass bells can be found online at Cat's Paw Web site. The bells pictured above are recent additions to Perry's inventory. For our readers who are familiar with my story 'The Bell on Christmas Eve,' this is my source of the small acorn bells which are very special to me.

I have purchased numerous bells from Perry and I can recommend his service, honesty and products very highly, without hesitation.

Contact Perry at: Cat's Paw  
<http://www.catspawdb.com/accessories.html>  
 email  
[donnajo@aye.net](mailto:donnajo@aye.net)

## SANTA SCENTS



From Santa Randy Gabrelcik

We are often asked, "How did you come up with the idea of SantaSCents? One day as I was getting dressed for a Santa visit, I was putting on my cologne and I thought; Santa shouldn't smell like everyone else and their colognes. Santa should smell like Christmas smells.

We purchased a book on making your own perfumes. The whole family became involved in developing the scents with the use of different oils as each scent needs a top note, middle carrying note and base note.

We then bottled and boxed up our perfumes and traveled to the first convention of real bearded Santas in Branson, MO.

For more information visit us at our Web site, <http://www.santascents.com>. We have received orders from across the 50 states as well as Canada.

Santa Randy & DebraAnn Gabrelcik

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### Masthead Artwork by Stephanie Suzanne Sentinella

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